

FREEZONE

MOTORING · COMPUTING · ACTIVITIES

Music revolts

By Khaldoun Tabaza
Special to The Star

IF TRACED to its very first beginnings, "House Music" is likely to have started in the black quarters of Chicago. Back in the mid-eighties some club Disk jockeys (DJs) started producing records backed by computerised drum patterns and bass lines with an extensive use of "sampling." Using cheap synthesizers and sounds taken from other people's records, the making of such music, needed neither high budgets nor hi-tech studios. One was able to "synthesize" a record on his/her own while sitting in the bedroom using low-budget synthesizers and keyboards. "House Music" was invented to take the world of music by storm.

From Chicago, House Music spread to Europe and especially to England where record companies showed an interest in releasing this new kind of pop music and gave the chance to records such as "Pump Up the Volume" and "Doctorin' the House" that, later on, appeared high up in the music charts.



Although it is full of sampled sounds and tracks taken from other records, House Music has its own specific drum tracks and bass lines, which are usually faster than those of usual pop music and has repetition as a very prominent feature that is believed to have a sort of hypnotic effect on the listener.

"Acid House Music," which is considered by some British musicians as "the best thing that's happened in pop music in the last 10 years," appeared also in Chicago a few years ago when a person called DJ Pierre "discovered" some crazy sounds while trying to make a house record. He liked

these sounds and used them to produce the first ever acid record called "Acid Tracks."

Besides having all the House Music features exaggerated, the pitch of the notes in acid house goes up and down all over the record with an extensive use of echo. The tempo of the song, though fluctuating, is indeed faster than that of house music.

As it appeared in England, with records like "We Call It Acid" and "House Nation," Acid House Music was accompanied by two other phenomena: strange fashion items such as head bands, snail T-shirt (which, later on, became the symbol for Acid House Music), and secondly a rather weird way of dancing which involves waving one's hands in front of one's face and moving the body in all directions with absolutely no limitations applied to the movement.

The name "Acid," originally a name of a drug, ignited heated debates in England about the relation between Acid Music and drug-taking. Some of the clubs playing Acid Music were accused of dealing with drugs and the government enforced restrictions on huge acid parties, known as "raves". These parties, which were held in large warehouses, were considered as hallucination and drug taking conventions. On their part, record companies strongly denied these

A "Heavy" opinion

By Firas Daraiseh
Special to The Star

IN 1959, beat novelist William Burroughs published his first book, "Naked Lunch", which included the portentous term "Heavy Metal."

Burroughs is considered the first to coin the phrase which later appeared in Steppenwolf's classic hit "Born to be Wild" in the sixties.

The roots of metal go back to the sixties when it was founded by groups like Blue Cheer, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix and Black Sabbath, just to name a few.

A musical genre of its own which utilises pickups, pedals, and amplifiers, heavy metal relies on the screaming guitars, the thunderous bass and banging drums create its totally uncompromising sound.

Unlike what most people think, Heavy Metal isn't just something to annoy your dog with, it combines all the essence of fine art, musically and lyrically.

In contrasting and comparing metal with pop and classical music, metal and classical music both place an emphasis on the instruments, and tend to be intense. They require skill to play and, most importantly, they both endure the test of time.

Now, unlike metal, pop places the emphasis on vocals, has no elements of intensity, and requires little skills.

Heavy Metal music isn't just smash and thrash. There's a new legion of heroes creating their own brand of mayhem, so if you are a rebel, you are a metalhead—enough said.



Adventuring
page 14

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Amman, 19—25 July 1990

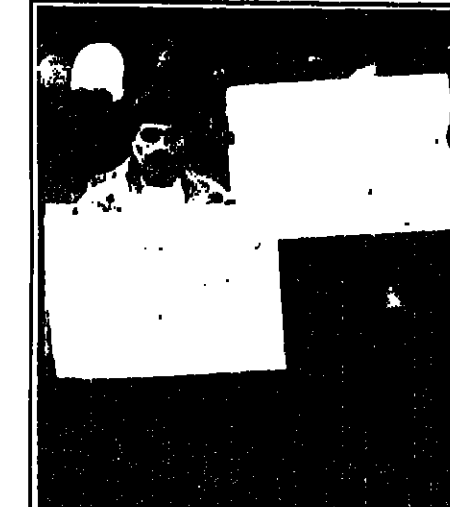
اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Vol : 1 No :25



Legal battles over Jubelma

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Petra Bank employees at large, page 4

INSIDE

The WorldPaper TAX WARS

Government fiscal experiments in the 1980s have generated controversial tax reforms in the 1990s. In this issue, *The WorldPaper* examines tax conflicts on three continents, including views from Mexico, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Tourism

Summer is the tourists' season. From all over the globe, travelers descend upon famous destinations, bringing money, film—and, often, new problems for their hosts. This section takes a look at how host countries are meeting the challenges of a thriving tourism industry.

Computerised music The sky is the limit

By Ahmad Humeid
Special to The Star

STRANGE Bleeps and squeaks, thumping and pumping. These are the latest sounds on the Top 20 blasting from the radio. Many recent records fall in the categories of "house" and "acid". However, this large boom in electronic music did not come out of a void.

Since the sixties, musicians have used synthesizers, electronic sound generating equipment, in their search for new sounds. But the real explosion in electronic music came in the early eighties with the use of smaller, more powerful computers that are easily accessible to musicians. Nowadays, a recording studio without computer-related music-making gizmos such as "MIDI", sequencers and samplers is rare.

Musicians, dissatisfied with the small range of sounds traditional instruments produced, began to explore the possibilities of electronic sound generation. At first, they used analog synthesizers. The concept behind these instruments was the creation of sound waves through the manipulation of electric pulses via capacitors and resistors. However, this de-

sign had its limitations and musicians demanded more.

Meanwhile, giant leaps in the computer industry made it possible to build computers fast enough to generate pulses which can be transformed into sounds. This new digital technology gave musicians more control over their synthesizers, and enabled them to replace the old analog models.

"Sampling" was introduced in the early eighties. Sampling is the technical term for using the computer as a sort of tapeless tape recorder to recreate the sounds of musical instruments and sound effects such as breaking glass, explosions or screams. If a musician wants the sound of an expensive grand piano, a whole orchestra or a dog barking in the night, he can sample these sounds through the computer, store them on a disk, and play them back over the whole range of the keyboard.

To create a sample, a sound must be played through a microphone into the computer which "samples", or takes little bits of the sound at certain time intervals. The computer then calculates the value of that little bit, turns it into a number and stores it in its memory. The stored set of num-

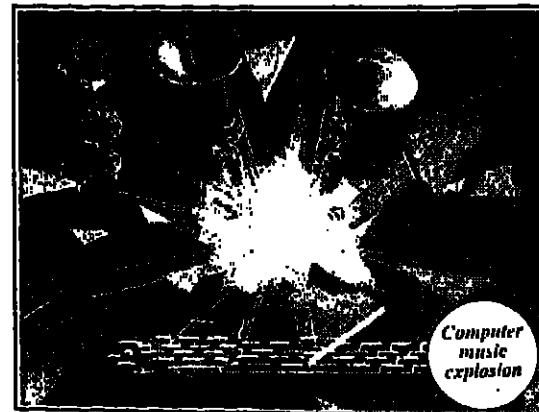
bers is turned into electric pulses which are sent through a loud-speaker to reproduce the original sound.

Sampling only became possible as the computer's memory grew large enough and its speed became fast enough to cope with the world of acoustics. Because sound is an information intensive medium, this sampling rate, happens at a staggering rate, sometimes reaching 44 million times per second (44Mhz).

The creative potential of sampling is immense. Manipulating sound is very easy when it is stored as numbers in the computer's memory. The sound can be reversed, cut, looped or stretched in every way imaginable. When a band like *Depeche Mode* uses the technology in this way, the final effect is quite breathtaking.

The newest revolution in computer music-making is sequencing. Sequencing, like sampling, turns the computer into a recorder. However, a sequencer records notes instead of sounds.

Today's modern musician does not have to practice for years to compose a hit. Instead, the artist sits comfortably in a studio in front of several keyboards. The musician chooses a sound and



go out of business.

American and Japanese companies eventually became fed up with problems of interconnectability with so much equipment available made by so many different companies. In response, they created "Musical Instrument

starts playing a tune. The sequencing software on the computer records the notes and puts them on screen where they can be edited just like letters, words and sentences on a word processor.

When the musician is satisfied with a tune, he or she can compose a rhythm and percussion track or a bass line over the song. Accompanying tunes and sounds can be added on other tracks and the whole composition can be edited at the musician's will. Certain parts can be repeated, notes can be shifted up and down...the possibilities are endless.

Sequencing had made it possible for people who don't play any musical instruments or don't have any theoretical training to compose music. Thousands of young people now sit in their bedrooms sampling and sequencing, using equipment that can be obtained at affordable prices. Bands no longer have to hire expensive studios or session musicians. In fact, this trend has caused many big studios and session musicians to

Digital Interface (MIDI) in 1982. MIDI is the common language with which computers, keyboards and drum machines "talk" to each other. Most modern computerised musical instruments have connectors marked MIDI IN, MIDI OUT and MIDI THROUGH, which means these instruments can send and receive information from each other. This allows the musician to connect the main computer to all of the keyboards, putting him at the head of a digital orchestra.

Computers have totally revolutionised music-making. It has made the whole process faster, cheaper and much easier. However, the computer has been blamed for the "mechanising" of today's music. Some say that the spirit of music has disappeared with the advent of computer music. Computer musicians claim that the electronic devices are just tools and that it is up to the musician to put the spirit into the composition.

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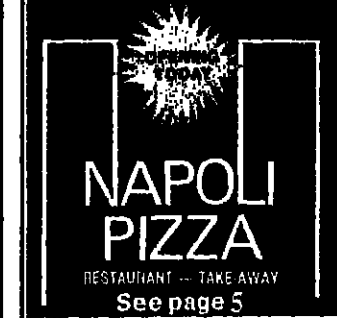
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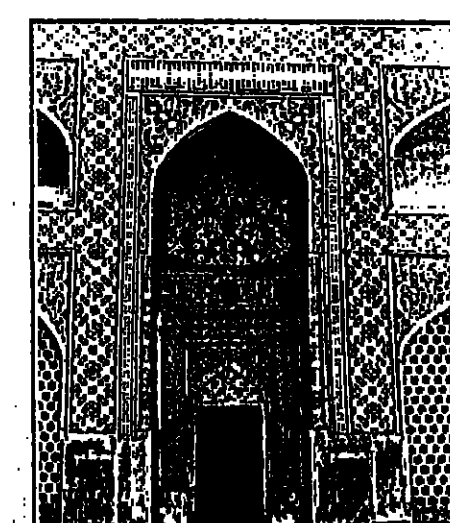
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Beauty of Isfahan Mosque, page 7
David Levy on talks with PLO, page 12

On the record

Progress in work at the Yarmouk dam and means of facilitating it will figure prominently on the agenda of the Joint Higher Jordanian-Syrian committee meetings which will be held in Damascus in the first week of August.



Mr. Badran
The Jordanian delegation to

Damascus will be headed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran who will be visiting the Syrian capital for the first time since he assumed office in January this year.

A technical team from Jordan Valley Authority has recently concluded a visit to Damascus and agreed with Syrian officials to continue work on the project.

The meetings of the General Secretaries of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC), the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) have been postponed until further notice. The meetings were supposed

to convene in the very near future to co-ordinate among the three Arab blocs as recommended by the Baghdad Summit that ended in the Iraqi capital in June this year.

Two retired high ranking army officers will soon be appointed ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry.

The appointed Ambassador to Libya, Mr. Hisham Al Muhaisen, will fly to Tripoli next week to resume his work there. Mr. Al Muhaisen will convey a verbal message from His Majesty King Hussein to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Committee approves NMI law

AMMAN—The legal Committee at the Lower House has approved the draft law of the National Medical Institution (NMI) after receiving guarantees that the government will work out a new draft law organising the medical services in the country.

The committee recommended the establishment of a higher health council under which all hospitals and clinics in the Kingdom will operate.

It also demanded that the new draft law stipulates that hospitals in the country be accessible to all citizens.

PSDP sponsors marketing seminar

AMMAN (Star) — A five-week senior-level workshop on "Advanced Applied Marketing" will begin on Thursday, 26 July at the Regency Palace Hotel.

The workshop complements a successful 10-week programme which was completed in April, and will provide advanced marketing training for teachers of marketing from the leading community colleges in Jordan. At the conclusion of the workshop, a formal certificate will be awarded to those who attend.

The workshop will be sponsored by the Marketing Sector of the Private Services Development Project (PSDP), which also sponsored the earlier 10-week programme.

Direction of the workshop will be under Mr. Mazin Samara, a professional in the field of marketing with many years of practical training and hands-on marketing experience. He is presently affiliated with the Middle East Trade Centre (METRACE) in Amman.

The agenda of the workshop will include coverage of such topics as international negotiations and marketing strategy, customer behavioural analysis, advertising and public relations.

Corrections

■ Due to a typesetting mistake, the following lines were missing from the interview with Mr. Sam Nusseibeh that appeared in The Star 12-18 July 1990.

Mr. Nusseibeh's answer to the question: "This spate of bombings within Israel is reaction, or is it indicative of a concerned decision to turn to more violent means?", should have read as following:

A: I have no idea. But you have to think not only of what the Palestinians are doing but also what the Israelis are doing. Look at this thing in the press about the leaflet distributed to settlers telling them how to kill Arabs without being caught and what kind of bullets to use, etc. It basically means that on both the Israeli and the Palestinian sides there is a rising propensity to use violence.

■ In the article, "Bedouin women boom as traders" by Mary Kassar (The Star 28 June), the subjects of the article were wrongly referred to as Bedouin. The editor wishes to clarify that Um Ahmad is a peasant from Souf. We regret the misunderstanding.

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Jerash teaming with life despite economic crunch

By Charlotte Hale
Star Staff Writer

A FIERY torch ignited by Her Majesty Queen Noor and jovial Jordanian music and dancing at The Forum in the ancient Roman city of Jerash greeted visitors this past week at the ninth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

Aside from the daily performances by the Jordanian Armed Forces Band, the Jordan National Troupe, and various local and international folklore dance troupes, festival-goers have been treated since last Wednesday to an array of poetry readings, plays, and musical and dancing performances at the South Theatre and on the Artemis Steps.

Acts included singer Nabeel Sha'el, Mevlevi Soma Group from Turkey, Omieh troupe from Syria, the Gary Burton Jazz Quintet from the US, and the Azerbaijan State Ballet from the USSR.

Mevlevi Soma Group, Turkey

As families and groups of teenagers strolled down the brightly-lit colonnaded street between performances, they were tempted by the drifting smells of Arabic food and music coming from food tents. The city's old traffic intersection was filled with artisans demonstrating their

skills and peddling their wares. Personalised wooden key-chains, colourful bottles of Petra and Agaba sand, hand embroidered cushions and dresses, hand woven rugs, Hebron glass, and textured brass wall hangings were among the available arts and crafts.

"The festival has been good for us," says Haidar Smadi of the Jerash Handicrafts Centre which featured a tent brimming with colourful rugs, embroidered dresses and purses. "Not all of the visitors of the festival

come to buy our crafts, but those who do appreciate them." Another merchant who asked not to be named said that business was not as prosperous as in previous years and observed that attendance at the festival seemed to be down as well.

A visitor from New Zealand noted that she was disappointed about the quality of this year's performers. Though she has not attended previous festivals, she saw a videotape of last year's festival and thought it was "absolutely fantastic."



"Last year they had the Russian National Ballet and groups from Yugoslavia, Portugal, and Spain. This year, no one could even tell me the dates for the festival until the very last minute," said Bobbie Knight, a native New Zealander working in Saudi Arabia. "I heard it was religious, Islamic pressure. I planned to stay until next Sunday, but I'm flying to Turkey tomorrow instead."

Knight had not heard about the elimination of government subsidies due to the country's economic crunch, a major factor plaguing this year's festival in its attempts to attract big name acts.

Other festival attendants did not seem bothered by this year's changes. "The festival is very good," raved Thacir, a Jordanian scenographer.

The festival will run through 27 July and feature upcoming performances by Amr Diab, the Radio Jordan Orchestra, the Warsaw Accordion Quintet, a performance of "Cinderella" by the Haya Arts Centre and "Cairo 80" by an Egyptian troupe.



Jordanian Armed Forces Band

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 13

Drawing of: July 17, 1990

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 56390 Wins JD 25,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD1,000 each wins JD 100 56391 56300 56490 57390 66390 56399 56380 56290 55390 46390
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Holder of ticket No. 04032 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 04033 04042 04132 05032 14032 04031 04022 04932 03032 74032
Holder of ticket No. 04583 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD150 each wins JD 15 04584 04593 04683 05583 14583 04582 04573 04483 03583 74583
Holder of ticket No. 43628 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD100 each wins JD 10 43629 43638 43728 44628 53628 43627 43618 43528 42628 33628
Holder of ticket No. 28821 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 28822 28831 28921 29821 38821 28820 28811 28721 27821 18821
Holder of ticket No. 32248 Wins JD 600	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 32249 32258 32348 33248 42248 32247 32238 32148 31248 22248

Ticket numbers 23179 35787 58651 58861	win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers 65658 38847 38232	win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

6369 5978 0718 2968 7883 Win JD 20 each	9565 5392 7208 7523 7268 Win JD 10 each
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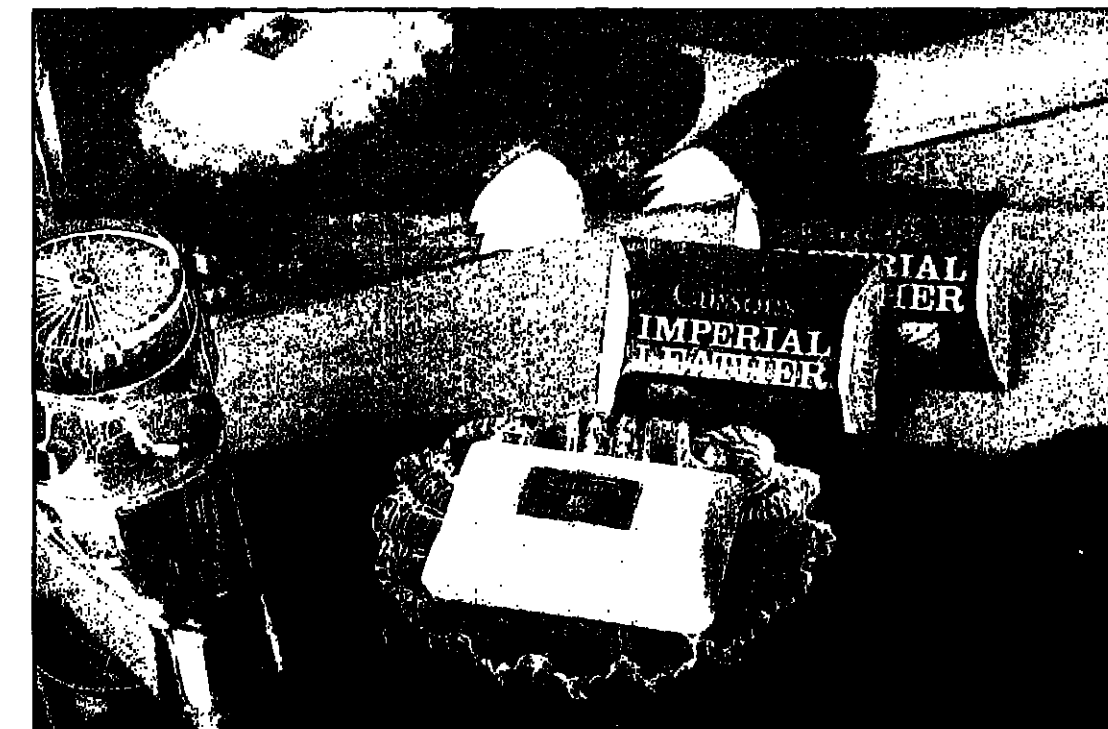
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GAM in for a legal battle over Jubeiha Park

Chipperfield to demand \$7.7 million compensation

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

IF JOHN Allen had the funds he would be happy to run the Greater Amman Municipality's Jubeiha Amusement Park as his own business. Allen, the former general manager of the park on behalf of Chipperfield Seaton of the UK, and Mr Walid Al Shahed, Chipperfield's agent in Jordan both say the park has consistently met its visitor and revenue targets and is a successful venture.

Their confidence however, is not shared by the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) which on Sunday cancelled Chipperfield Seaton's management contract and appointed a committee to manage Jubeiha park.

The two sides are now set for a legal battle with Chipperfield planning to sue the municipality for up to \$4.5 million in fees and a further two million pounds for damage to its reputation, Amman Mayor Eng. Ali Suheimat is confident that the municipal council was "well within its rights to revoke the contract."

Al Shahed says the \$4.5 million covers \$350,000 annual management fee due for up to 13 years and for which quarterly instalments were stopped in September 1989. He says the GAM is blaming the Chipperfield management for losses that were in fact caused by the decline in the value of the dinar.

The municipality has been the unwilling owner of the park since it absorbed the Jubeiha Municipality in January 1987. Chipperfield Seaton originally signed a contract with the Jubeiha Municipality in 1985 under which it was to supervise the design, construction and equipment of the park and to manage it fully for five years from the time of completion.

Jubeiha Park: No more fun and games



The project was funded by a \$7.5 million loan from the Arab Banking Corp. (ABC) in Bahrain, guaranteed by the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) and \$1 million from local sources. If the ABC loan was not settled from park earnings within five years the Chipperfield Seaton management contract would be extended for a further five years and then another three years. GAM has been repaying the ABC loan from its own resources and both Al Shahed and Allen estimate that it

course.

When the Amman Municipality was transformed into the Greater Amman Municipality it incorporated the Jubeiha Municipality and with it the amusement park. But was opposed to its completion as it had its own plan for a JD 22 million amusement park in another area of the city. Since then, says Allen, the municipality has consistently placed obstacles in the way of the efficient running of the park. He says problems began during the construction of the park when

responsibility for the supply of services was clearly stated in its contract with Chipperfield.

According to Allen, municipality officials have also interfered in every detail of the running of the park, forcing staff to follow bureaucratic procedures such as referring even minor spare parts purchases to a management committee and refusing management suggestions for improvements and new developments designed to boost attendances.

Al Shahed says the municipality

10 per metre, while the Jubeiha management was forced to charge JD 30 per metre for concessions at the park.

But Allen believes that despite the obstacles the Jubeiha park has been a success. He says the park's attendance number and receipts since it opened in 1988 have been in line with figures in the feasibility study for the scheme.

He gave figures as in the accompanying table. The feasibility study for the project estimated that it needed an average of around 700,000 visitors and revenues of around JD 700,000 annually to be profitable.

The only cause of its financial problems, he says, has been the decline in the value of the dinar. The JD 700,000 expected revenues would have been worth around \$2.1 million in 1985 but are now worth only \$1 million which makes dollar payments for debt and fees a heavy burden. But even that burden could have been lightened, says Allen.

Allen says when the dinar began to decline in 1988 he advised then Mayor Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh to look for a locally syndicated loan to pay off the ABC debt and eliminate the problem of currency changes. The response was that this could not be done and Allen says the currency decline has cost the park JD 121,000 in 1988, JD 576,000 in 1989, and JD 404,000 so far in 1990 with the total loss for the year expected to reach JD 800,000.

Al Shahed says he is not content just to leave the Chipperfield Seaton-Greater Amman Municipality dispute to the courts. He says that he intends to pursue the matter through the Lower House of Parliament. He says he has no doubts that the company will win the case but the question that worries him is who will pay the costs, GAM or the people of Amman?

	Attendance	Receipts	Expenses
15 June to 13 Nov. '89	435,000	JD415,000	JD378,000
17 Mar. to 7 Dec. '89	647,000	JD696,000	JD735,000
1 Apr. to 10 July '90	322,000	JD370,000	JD242,000

would take another 10 seasons for the park to earn the equivalent of the loan. They believe the original contract should have been allowed to run its full

the municipality took 11 months to connect the water supply, 18 months to connect electricity and 23 months to connect the sewage system at the park, although its

ty has even gone so far as to compete with its own project by renting land for a new amusement park at its King Abdullah Complex in the city for only JD

Uncertainty still engulfs fate of Petra Bank employees

By a Star Staff Writer

NINE DAYS after the decision of the Economic Security Committee (ESC) to liquidate the Petra Bank, the fate of around 700 employees of the bank is still far from certain.

Central Bank Governor Dr Mohammed Said Al Nabulsi and other officials have said that "the banking sector and other financial institutions in Jordan are big enough to absorb Petra Bank employees" of whom some will be employed by a new investment and export bank that will soon be established. Such statements, however, do not have the "force of law" and do little to water down the fears of the bank's employees, says Mr Halder Rashid, president of Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA).

Musa Ali has been working in the Supplies Department of Petra Bank for the last seven years and hopes to get a job with another bank in the country. The salary which he continues to receive from Petra Bank is his main source of income as his army pension can hardly be enough to meet the basic needs of his family. Responsible for the university education of a daughter and

the living expenses of a married son who is doing his military service, Musa is frightened of the prospect of losing his job.

Another Petra Bank employee, Abdul Majid Al Jariri is the only working member in his family of nine. He says he has no hopes of employment anywhere in the country if the liquidation of Petra Bank causes him to lose his job.

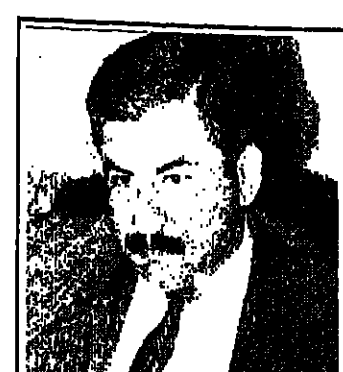
"With the unemployment rate so high in the country, we stand no chance of finding a new job. Losing my job will be catastrophic to my family," he says.

Musa and Abdul Majid are among the 700 employees of Petra Bank who are extremely anxious about their future. Head of the Administration Department at the bank Mr Mazen Al Saket says that a decision clearly stating the fate of the employees should be immediately taken in order to instill in them a feeling of security.

Mr Al Saket says that the employees' fears are increased by the fact that they are kept in the dark regarding the steps that the management is taking to finalise the liquidation process, with many of them fearing that they will be punished for having participated in the February sit-in



Mr Halder Rashid



Mr Mazen Al Saket

that was organised by JBIEA to demand improved working conditions.

Against such a backdrop, says Mr Al Saket, employees are worried that partial solutions to the situation will lead to the employment of only those who will receive the blessing of the management whom he accuses of having personal grudges against the employees.

Mr Al Saket says that any decision regarding the fate of the bank's employees should lead to their employment in other banks in the country and guarantee them their acquired rights.

JBIEA President Mr Halder Rashid also calls for the revelation of all the details of the Petra Bank case but says that the liquidation decision is an economic and political one with which he is not concerned. He says that the important issue for JBIEA is to guarantee that the employees are not the victims of the Petra

Bank debacle.

JBIEA has already started work to rally support for the employees by setting up a national committee that will, in co-ordination with the association exercise pressure on the concerned authorities to give the employees their full rights.

Mr Rashid also says that the only acceptable answer to the employees' situation is to make sure that they are employed by other financial institutions in the country under similar work conditions. He says that the JBIEA totally rejects settling the issue through offering compensation to the employees, as some officials have hinted.

Mr Al Saket says that some employees might accept compensations on the condition that they are not based on the "principle" Labour Law which stipulates that employees are given one month notice upon termination of their services.

Musa Ali and Abdul Majid Al Jariri both agree that no matter how large the compensations, they will not solve their problems. "My life will be completely destroyed if I am left jobless and with no regular source of income," says Abdul Majid.

America's Burton Quintet jazzes up Jerash

By Charlotte Hale
Star Staff Writer

MUSIC HAS for hundreds of years been called a global language — a communication form defying cultural boundaries. If this is true, then American jazz musician Gary Burton and his constantly evolving quintet are the ultimate "global musicians."

Burton, known as "the guy who uses four mallets" to play his vibraphone, has brought the harmonic jazz sounds of the Gary Burton Quintet to the Soviet Union, Argentina, Japan, Europe, and most recently last Sunday and Monday to Jordan at the ninth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

"I've noticed that there seems to be less differences in audiences around the world now," observes the veteran musician who has been touring since 1962. "There is a simultaneous global society now with everyone hearing the same records, seeing the same videos at the same time."

The 47-year-old Boston-based musician explains that his audiences are usually varied, ranging from knowledgeable jazz enthusiasts to curious individuals who have never heard his style of music. He predicted that most of



Gary Burton Jazz Quintet

the Jerash audience would be curious people since jazz is not widely popular in Jordan.

Though only approximately 150 people covered the cool stone of the Artemis Steps, the audience was appreciative and enthusiastic, applauding after particularly dynamic solos and calling the quintet back for an encore after performing its 10-song-set under the starry evening sky.

Aside from introducing his

musicians and telling the audience that they were playing both new songs and old favourites, Burton spoke to the audience with his music rather than with words. Some members lounged casually on the Roman bleachers, absorbing the quintet's music with their ears while inhaling cigarette smoke into their lungs. Lots of tapping feet and snapping fingers also indicated approval.

Although Burton is an innova-

tor in the music world — the first musician to combine elements of rock music with jazz and to use four mallets to play his vibraphone, the Jerash concert highlighted a more mainstream harmonic and melodic style of jazz.

The set featured everything from a solo by Burton which resembled the haunting beauty of carousel music and ringing church bells to upbeat compositions intertwining dynamic im-

provos by Burton and his young musicians. Band leader Burton has a reputation for giving talented young players their big breaks, most notably the now famous Pat Metheny and John Scofield. This most recent line-up, featuring musicians all under the age of 25, is a continuation of this practice for which Burton hopes to be remembered.

While the tiny round balls of Burton's blue mallets flow across the keys of his vibraphone, tenor saxophonist Don McCaslin belted out notes so hard it often looked as if his neck was going to explode and Austrian Wolfgang Muthspiel used his skillful dexterity on guitar to complete the melodious sound. Intriguingly strumming his stand-up bass, Larry Grenadier provided solid backing that meshed well the light-handed drumming by Martin Richard.

Audience applause seemed to indicate that uptempo songs were a bit more popular, particularly "Beautiful Love," and "Soulful Bill." The band also provided a refreshingly quick-paced instrumental version of the American vocal ballad "My Funny Valentine" which was also well-received.

Ali Baba's cave lives at Al Afgani Gifts

By Maha Addasi
Special to The Star

WITH ANCIENT treasures crowding every nook and cranny of the Al Afgani Company for Oriental Gifts, shoppers might think its owners are trying to recreate the legendary Ali Baba's cave.

Traditional dresses, intricately embroidered with kakoidoscopes of coloured thread crowd the shelves of an entire wall. Lustrous mother-of-pearl glow beautifully, lighting up another wall more effectively than an electric spotlight. Delicate silver jewelry intermingled with rows of brass daggers crowd the glass cases in the middle of the shop. Brass pottery, straw rugs and backless straw seats used by customers fill the extra space of this modest-sized store in Jabal El-Weibdeh.

"The aim of this company is to promote and preserve our Arab heritage," says Bilal Al Afgani, one of the owners and the grandson of the founder.

"To maintain our traditions, we trade and make art pieces that reflect our immediate surroundings," explains Hussein Al Afgani, Bilal's brother and co-owner of the company. "For example, wood carvings are on olive wood, brass is hand hammered and traditional dresses respect to each village in the country are embroidered by women native to those areas."

Even an aroma of tradition fill the store, as the smell of black

Arabic coffee drifts through customers' nostrils.

"Old men come in here and feel nostalgic," notes Bilal. "Over coffee, they add to our tradition by talking about historical events which they experienced first hand."

But the Al Afgani brothers need not rely on their elderly coffee-drinking customers to create a historical backdrop. The store itself has a rich history, beginning in Palestine in 1862. Bilal's grandfather from Afghanistan started the business by making and selling signet rings from gold, silver and garnet. However, increased levels of literacy made these rings extinct because people with their new writing skills could now sign their own names, Bilal explains.

Grandfather Al Afgani kept the business flourishing by turning to related artefacts such as the assemblage of rare coins and brass objects purchased from travellers. These possessions were so well selected that some of the Islamic brass pots from the original collection are now priceless and are kept solely for display.

Today, most of the wares are obtained or produced from materials collected during extensive travel throughout the Arab world. "These trips help the brothers stay up-to-date with improved raw materials that form pieces with long-lasting quality. In Egypt, they look at brass, mosaics in Syria, and mother-of-pearl masterpieces in the West Bank, just to name a few."

Each brother has specialised knowledge of a different type of art, but they all agree that everything they collect must be handmade.

"Many Arab emigrants vacationing in Jordan make sure they take back some of our art to give their homes a touch of tradition," notes Bilal.

The Al Afgani brothers are proud that their antiques tell a historic and geographic story. "The theme of our stores is that we value tradition. And we know that all our customers value that."



Bilal fixing an old piece

knowledge of a different type of art, but they all agree that everything they collect must be handmade.

The Al Afgani brothers also have sharp eyes for identifying genuine art objects, a skill which helps them maintain original artefacts.

"We can tell whether a coin, for instance, is an imitation by the type of hammering and the alloy used," the owner says. Bilal notes that most of their customers have always been American and European tourists, though many come from the Arab world.

"Many Arab emigrants vacationing in Jordan make sure they take back some of our art to give their homes a touch of tradition," notes Bilal.

The Al Afgani brothers are proud that their antiques tell a historic and geographic story. "The theme of our stores is that we value tradition. And we know that all our customers value that."

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Riding the culture wave in Glasgow

The concept that a city can be revitalised largely by changing its poor image and attracting international tourism may be familiar in the developing world but it's unheard of in the West. Glasgow, an 'underdog' city for many decades which is currently enjoying its status as the cultural capital of Europe, has applied that concept in all aspects of its life. The results are revealing.

By Sajid Rizvi
Special to the Star

FOREIGNERS WHO find British stereotyping of their customs and lifestyles tiresome need only to look at Glasgow for light relief. For decades the Scottish city was typecast as a city of slums, first by the Scots and the British themselves, then by foreigners at large.

Dollar tourists shunned it like a town stricken by plague, the British mercilessly poured scorn or pity on the largest Scottish city's double burden of poor people and poorer society and the Glaswegian covered under this combined onslaught with repressed anger and frustration and an acute sense of injustice.

Luckily that was not all that the Glaswegians did. In the meantime, as one Glaswegian official put it, "they worked like a city under siege to build new defences against the unkind world outside." They renovated or rebuilt the slums, beautified the boulevards, sowed culture all along the way and before they could say Glasgow twice they had all of Europe in their pocket. Literally. This year the city is enjoying its unusual status as the cultural capital of Europe (forget Athens, forget Florence, Amster-

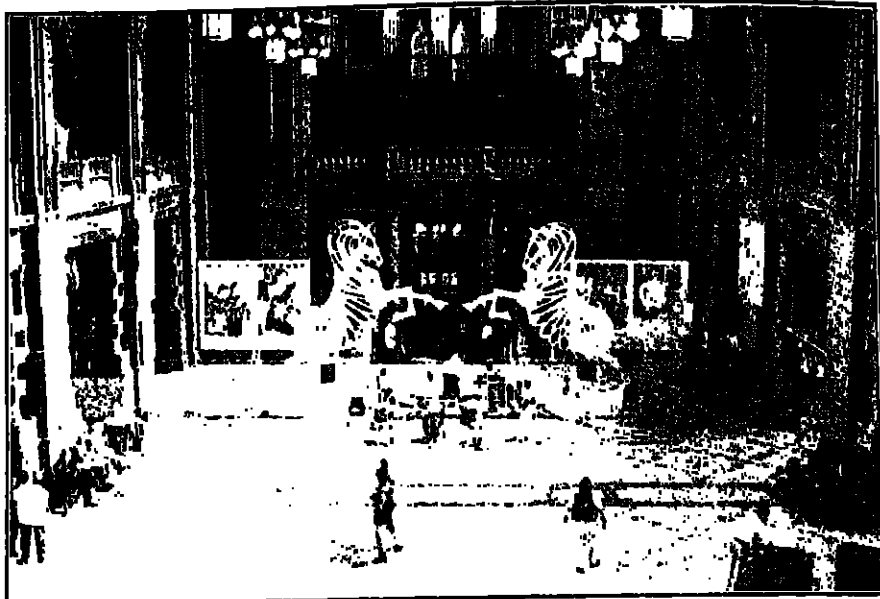
dam, Berlin or Paris, the former holders of the title).

Not many Europeans, leave alone people elsewhere, fully appreciate what the honour has meant for Glasgow. The fruits of that one-year reign are still being reaped. Hundreds of thousands of visitors have temporarily boosted the city's population (718,000) through the year, and hundreds of thousands more will have put the city on their itineraries before the year is out. In 1982 the number of visitors to Glasgow equaled the resident population; by 1987 that total had soared to more than two million. This year the conservative estimates for tourism run up to five million.

More important, Glaswegian authorities hope that the attraction of Glasgow will not end with the dawn of 1991. Rather, they expect that once it's been put on the global conference and tourism circuit, Glasgow will stay there. "Glasgow 1990 is not just 12 months," said Eddie Friel, director of the Greater Glasgow Tourist Board, "it's not a marketing veneer that wipes off the industrial slum for one year and then it's business as usual. It's about pushing the city forward to the 21st century as a major cultural centre."

Glasgow's fortunes began to change in 1986 after it was nominated, with three other Scottish cities, as a candidate city for the title of Cultural Capital of Europe, conferred each year by the European Economic Community in Brussels. Its chances appeared slim, because in competition for that honour was the culturally busy and architecturally superior Edinburgh (scene of the annual international art, film and television festivals) and two equally vigorous contenders, Aberdeen

The interior of the Kelvin Grove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow



and Dundee.

But Glasgow fought hard. In the preceding years it had built up enough ammunition with a series of regular artistic events. Additionally, it had "cleaned up its act," and not just metaphorically, with urban development that put London and other English cities way behind it. Moreover, it had done the sensible thing and incorporated art and culture into its newly buoyant economy rather than relegate them to the scavengers' fringe.

Today culture is not just the 'in' thing in Glasgow, the talk of the town, it is also a nice little earner for the city. By the last count, nearly 15,000 Glaswegians earned their living in the arts, an industry which is now rated to be worth more than \$300 million.

The impact of the arts on Glasgow's community life is already apparent. There are more open spaces in the 'continental-looking' central Glasgow, with cafes, galleries and theatres dotting the scene, than in many other British cities, and that includes Edinburgh.

The lessons of Glasgow are particularly relevant to struggling cities in the developing world, where money is scarce or government incentives few and far between. Although it was at the instigation of Conservative

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's arts minister, Richard Luce, that Glasgow won its place as a cultural capital, much of the revival has come through co-operation between the Labour-dominated Glasgow Council and the city's traditional and new industries and cultural and philanthropic organisations.

"Glasgow won its place as a cultural capital of Europe," said Friel. "We have always been a major cultural city, but it was the best kept secret in the globe. Glasgow had reputation as an industrial city, a dull, dark and uninteresting place. No one knew about its cultural strengths."

The city's fortunes turned for the worse about three decades ago with the decline of shipbuilding and heavy engineering. With rampant unemployment and poverty the social rot set in. Although, as Friel and other insisted, Glasgow's cultural life thrived regardless, it was neglected by critics and art lovers elsewhere.

To this day, that prejudice persists, said one official, with London-based national newspapers "snottily looking the other way" when Glasgow has something to offer. Indeed national press coverage of Glasgow's unusual year-long event or its three-week-long Mayfest art extravaganza has

been sparse compared to the attention heaped on the annual Edinburgh Festival, which lasts less than a month.

In the postwar era Glasgow attracted a lot of Asian ("cheap labour") immigrants to its factories and still others in commerce. Today many of them own some of the finest houses; the Glaswegian English spoken by their children matches the natives' tongue lit by lit. The names and the complexions are obvious giveaways, however.

With its long reputation as a sailors' town transformed respectably into that of a cosmopolitan giant, Glasgow hopes that it will not be shunned by non-Europeans in its present quest to win friends in the West. To start with, Japanese investors are moving in, attracted as much by lower costs as by Scots work ethics.

Universities and colleges have students drawn literally from across the globe, and the city rightly claims to be the largest centre of education in Scotland. In addition to nearly 60,000 students in its two universities and 12 colleges, there are virtually endless possibilities for training in more than 200 other institutions based in Glasgow. "The timing of Glasgow's cultural year," says Bob Palmer, director of the festival, "could not be better."

Women woodbearers of Ethiopia

By Fekete Halle
Special to The Star

ETHIOPIA is one of the poorest countries of the world. It has an agriculture-based economy with low productivity, a deteriorating level of food production per capita, malnutrition, ill-health and high infant, child and maternal mortality rates. Women and children are most severely affected by poverty.

Although women are expected to work 16 to 18 hours a day, their level of income is so low they cannot maintain themselves and their families and as a result they are prone to suffer from malnutrition. Lack of health services, lack of education, unemployment and poor family planning add to their problems.

A 1985 study of household energy in Addis Ababa estimated that there are about 73,000 women and children in and around the capital who earn their living by supplying fuelwood to the city. They gather, transport on their back and sell to 35 per cent

of the households in the city. A more recent survey revealed that during a peak hour on a Saturday, 350 women and children — each laden with 15 to 50 kilograms of wood, branches and leaves — passed through a single gate into the city.

About 91 per cent of fuelwood carriers are women who have migrated from the countryside in search of better lives, leaving their families behind. The remainder come from low-income families in Addis Ababa who, in most cases, are daughters of fuelwood carriers. The absence of employment opportunities force large numbers of women to turn to gathering fuel as the only alternative means of earning a living.

Two-thirds of these women are single, divorced or widowed, and are therefore the heads of their respective households and may support as many as 15 family members. The remaining third are married to low-paid workers such as labourers or weavers who are unable to support their

families adequately. Fifty-nine per cent of carrier households have children below the age of five and, as a result of poverty and malnutrition, more than 11 per cent of the households have handicapped members.

Most of the women fuelwood carriers live in unsanitary conditions, and over half of them share a single multi-purpose room with other household members or other families. Many of the women share a single bed with others, whilst some sleep on dried palm tree leaves spread over the mud floor.

The majority of the carriers are unhealthy and suffer from poverty-related illnesses including severe malnutrition. Frequent falls with a burden on their back result in bone fractures and other complications, and most of them suffer chest and back pains due to heavy burdens and long trips. Eye problems, headaches, rheumatism, anaemia, heart disease and internal pains are also common.

Forest resources around Addis

Ababa are owned by the state or by peasants and urban dwellers' associations, whose guards endeavor to protect the forest from cutting. However, others posing as guards may demand bribes of the women woodcutters before they leave the forest with their bundles. If they have no money, the bundles are confiscated, and the women may be beaten, and raped. The women are unable to report these offences to the authorities since their activity is illegal.

Although the International Labour Organisation (ILO) recommends that women must not carry more than 15 kilograms occasionally or 10 kilograms more frequently, these women may walk up to 35 kilometres, carrying as much as 77 kilograms on their backs. Pregnancy precludes them from this activity.

The women generally expect an income of \$1.50 to 2.40 per day. If they manage to successfully collect and transport the bundle to the city. They have no control over the prices of fuel-

wood. The average monthly income generated from selling the wood was about \$18 or about \$216 a year. This meagre income is used for food, rent, and other expenses and social obligations.

Because of the extremely low status of the work, the problems of women fuelwood carriers had not been seriously addressed at the national level. The 1985 study created an awareness among international agencies and concerned individuals that although these women contribute towards the overall fuelwood supply of the city, their debilitating living and working conditions and the implications of their activities for the forests near the city called for immediate intervention by government and development groups.

A project financed by the International Development Research Centre was initiated in 1988 by the ILO and the National Urban Planning Institute and it is hoped that this will eventually help to improve the lives of women woodbearers.

Understanding the Great Mosque of Isfahan

By Heather Williams
Special to the Star

The Great Mosque of Isfahan in Iran is one of the most remarkable buildings in the world. A new book explores its history and significance.

WHILE THE fascination which the Great Mosque of Isfahan held for writer Oleg Grabar has grown over the years, the longer he is acquainted with the historic monument the more he feels that its essence evades him.

His interest began as a young student when he mused over texts about the mosque, the Masjid-e-Jomeh or (the main) Friday Mosque of the southern Iranian city, looking at the same photographs again and again. He recalls his first visits to the grounds, when he remembers the enchanted loneliness of walking through its brick piers.

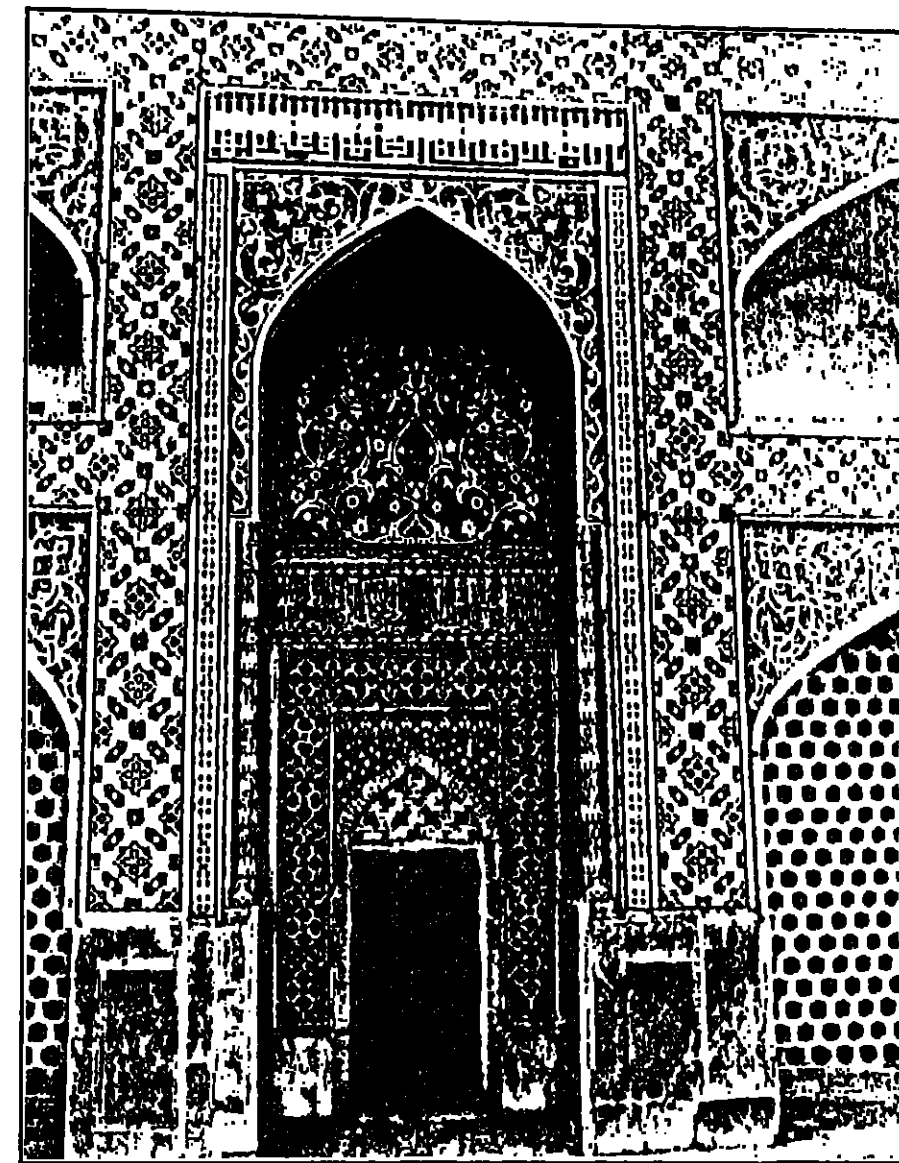
In the book "The Great Mosque of Isfahan", published by I.B. Tauris, Grabar, a historian of art and culture, admits to having tried to "understand the chronology of its supports and floors, the sombre solidity of the south dome and the total mystery of its massive supports." Despite his secular interest in the structure, when he walked under the mosque roof of "domical bubbles" he says, a light flashed on and off "like a magical beacon."

Now one of the world's leading authorities on Islamic art and architecture, and the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art at Harvard University, Grabar says the interest which the Masjid-e-Jomeh holds is in the way it has managed to preserve several episodes of history of Iranian visual forms, by constantly incorporating them into each other, resulting in "a quilt, whose very quality derives from the incongruous variety of its components."

As he explains in the introduction, the "Great Mosque of Isfahan" is an attempt to analyse the architecture of a building which holds such mysteries for him. He begins by stating the reasons why the mosque intrigues him, professing, for example, how he became "fascinated by the extraordinary way in which a huge building appears to melt into the city surrounding it." It is this harmony between the daily working lives of people and their worship of God which Grabar believes is fulfilled best by the mosque.

And yet the archaeological problems which the mosque presents are considerable, the paradoxes and anomalies of design remarkable, and the conflicting styles and forms make it an architectural phenomenon.

Dates, for example, are unevenly spread all over the building: "everything original seems



Gate in the courtyard of the Great Mosque, dated 1447, which has puzzled architects and experts because of its location. Some believe that the gate may have been moved to the location from somewhere else

to have no original connection with what is under or around it." And Grabar attempts to interpret and explain these discrepancies of design which he sees as "less than reasonably consistent."

What makes the mosque unusual is that it 'begins' from the central court, which measures 65 x 55 metres, rather like the Parthenon, only "inside out!" Grabar also draws attention to an 'anomaly' in the architectural design, whereby the outer rectangle is rendered a 'fiction' — it is divided into individual sections which appear to be "glued to our arbitrary rectangle (of the court) and can only be reached through it."

He goes on to discuss the various alterations and extensions, looking at questions of who made the changes and for what purpose. He maintains, for example, that the rectangle around the central court was divided up to enable followers of different Muslim denominations to pray without hindrance. Dating from 771, the Masjid-e-Jomeh was built in a Jewish quarter of the ancient city of Jajay. It had one of the earliest recorded 'minarets' in Iran and underwent a transformation between 985 and 1040, the date being that of a text rather than a specific event. The large dome in front of the mihrab was built in 1086-87.

Viewed from outside, the cupolas appear as a "sea of bubbles," while inside infinitely complex and fascinating designs on the vaulted ceilings or walls attract the visitor's eye.

Grabar asserts that although the motifs belong to many different periods and fulfil very different purposes, they do derive from a single Islamic artistic tradition.

The two largest and most impressive cupolas are dated to the second half of the 11th century, which according to Grabar, "provides the earliest dated evidence for a technological and aesthetic revolution in Iranian architecture."

This is the period when the theologian and philosopher, al-Ghazali, symbol of "the new religious and philosophical equilibrium between revelation, reason, law and experience," lived in Isfahan. The Masjid-e-Jomeh then was regarded as "the paradigm of a new epoch in civilisation," and began to be referred to in books as the 'Seljuq' Mosque of Isfahan.

Although the result of years of research and study of the mosque, the book is primarily based on lectures he presented at New York University. He says he chose not to locate the mosque within the art, ideology and technology of its various times, and consciously avoided questions of origins of colour in architecture and the techniques and styles of ornament because these already have been presented elsewhere.

Inclusion of those aspects no doubt would have heightened visual awareness of the magnificence of the building, although several black and white photographs do give some idea of the size, structure and design of the mosque. One is left with an enduring impression of the importance of this magnificent monument, and sense of intrigue about its origins and evolutions.

The social importance of the mosque is stressed in a postscript by Dr Eugenio Galdieri of the Istituto Italiano per il Medio e Estremo Oriente (ISMEO), the Italian Institute of the Middle and Far East, who headed a team of experts involved in its renovation.

Dr Galdieri explains why the renovation had to recognise the importance of conservation not merely on a technical level but also in the "three-dimensional" sense of preserving the building for its historical, artistic and social importance. The restoration has led to the accumulation of new information, more precise plans and drawings, which have been published in three volumes, with more to come.

Born out of admiration for a great and holy building, "The Great Mosque of Isfahan" is an attempt by Grabar to impart to his readers the growing fascination which the monument has held for him over the years. Despite a seemingly endless debate amongst scholars and experts about its many aspects, there is little dispute on the fact that the Great Mosque is unique. — "The Great Mosque of Isfahan," Oleg Grabar. I.B. Tauris & Co Ltd.

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ECONOMY The Star

Petra Bank liquidation: An end to cavalier, boom years banking

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

JORDAN'S BANKS are moving quickly to reap the benefits of recent decisions by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to liquidate the troubled Petra Bank although banks that took risks with Petra prior to its fall will be penalised.

Petra Bank has already received offers for the purchase of at least five of its branches and more offers are expected. The sale of the branches would have the double advantage of raising money for the bank's liquidators, the CBJ, and maintaining jobs for at least some of Petra's 700 staff.

Banks will also be in the market for a share of the estimated JD 100-130 million Petra deposits which are now in the process of being transferred to the Housing Bank. Petra's more substantial depositors are likely to find themselves in high demand once the transfer procedure is completed on 21 July.

The liquidation of Petra Bank is expected to take between 3 to 5 years and the CBJ has been exempted from following normal liquidation procedures under the Companies Law and instead will follow special instructions from the ESC which have the force of law.

Potential Israeli oil discovery triggers investment activity

THE POSSIBLE discovery of oil near the Mediterranean coast at Ashdod has fueled a wave of investment activity on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and has created hopes that Israel may eventually reap the benefits of a significant energy find.

On 3 June, the Yam-2 exploration well, located 10 mile offshore, started burning off combustible gas. Since then, oil exploration shares involved in the project rose 71%.

Because Israel produces only small amounts of oil and gas, it depends heavily on imports for most energy needs. Egypt and Mexico are Israel's two main suppliers of oil.

The country produces only about 1,000 barrels of oil per day (b/d) and some oil industry experts believe the figure is closer to 500. That is precisely why an increase in domestic supply would give Israel an important economic push forward. The country would be less dependent on the importation of oil. By the same token, Israel could also free up the hard currency that it pours into outside sources of energy.

Israeli officials indicated that Yam-2 was the most significant offshore discovery off the coast of Israel yet. But the commercial potential of the find is not yet known. At this point, Isramco-Negev 2, the company which is operating the well, has kept quiet about it.

The zones of interest are 2 well. Oil and

The CBJ plans to use Petra's real estate, shares and good debts as the basis of a new bank which will function initially as an investment bank but is intended ultimately as an export support agency. The bank will have a capital of JD 4 million, half of it to be provided by the CBJ and the balance to be offered to the private sector.

Economist Fahed Fanek estimates that the entire Petra affair, which began in August 1989 with an ESC order placing it and the Jordan Gulf Bank under CBJ management prior to their merger, will cost the CBJ around JD 300 million though he says Central Bank could recoup as much as JD 150 million from the liquidation.

All personal property of former Petra chairman Ahmad Chalabi and his family who left Jordan at the time of the CBJ takeover, and which includes substantial shares in the Cairo-Amman Bank, has now been placed in the name of the Petra Bank.

A number of Jordanian banks will be less pleased with the CBJ's use of its deposits in the planned investment and export bank to exact a penalty from those banks and financial corporations it considers to have acted imprudently in placing up to JD 60 million with Petra Bank before August 1989 when it was



CBJ Governor Dr. M. Nabulsi paying interest at around 1.2 per cent above the normal inter bank rate. These banks and finance houses, which withdrew their funds from Petra on the day of the CBJ takeover, will be required to deposit amounts equal

Jakarta Fair offers numerous opportunities to Jordanian exporters

AMMAN (Star) — The Jordan Trade Association (JTA) is currently sponsoring a feasibility study of the Indonesian market in a follow up to the Jakarta International Fair '90 which was held between 16 June - 14 July. Results of the study will be made available to Jordanian exporters.

The JTA had earlier organised and sponsored the participation of 18 Jordanian companies in the Jakarta Fair which, according to JTA President Mr. Halim Abu Rahmeh, offered Jordanian companies various trade opportunities.

The Jordanian pavilion in the Fair, which occupied a space of 96 square metres, attracted large numbers of Indonesian businessmen who showed their interest in and admiration for the quality and high standards of the

to those they had with Petra in a special fund for three years at an interest of only 4.5 per cent, the money to be used by the new bank.

Not surprisingly, banks not affected by the CBJ measures are pleased with what they see as an effective move by the Central Bank to ensure a more prudent approach to banking in Jordan. Stricter debt provision requirements by the CBJ for 1990 have also been welcomed as a further sign that the cavalier, risk-taking approach to banking encouraged by the boom years of the late 70s and early 80s has indeed ended. Now banking laws sent to government by the CBJ are expected to confirm the move towards stricter supervision of the banking sector.

Jordanian products.

The products exhibited in the Jordanian pavilion represented a variety of Jordanian-made products which included electrical accessories, pharmaceuticals, veterinary and pesticide products, baby buggies, gas cookers, hygienic paper products, carpets, rugs, Dead Sea bath salts, potash, phosphates, liquid fertilizers, and drip irrigation products, in addition to tourism through the participation of the Ministry of Tourism.

Jordan was amongst five foreign participants in the fair which included China, Taiwan, Pakistan, and Vietnam in addition to the host country.

The objective of the Jordanian participation was to establish direct contacts among Jordanian

Continued on page 9

Baghdad to host international trade fair in November

THE BAGHDAD International Fair is scheduled to be held between 1-15 November, 1990. Last year, 2,000 companies from 70 countries attended the fair, with 30 US firms occupying exhibition booths. As the premier Iraqi trade event, the international showcase will give participating companies exposure to important Iraqi decision-makers and qualified sales leads. The firms will also become known to Iraqi government organisations issuing tenders.

According to the US Department of Commerce, a number of US companies have expressed interest in the upcoming event. They are: Amara Refrigeration International Inc. of Amara, Iowa (refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, central heating and cooling products); Caltex Petroleum Corporation of Dallas, Texas (lubricating oils, greases and specialty products); Pepsi-Cola International of Somers, New York (soft drinks); Top Value Automotive Exporters Ltd. of Mount Vernon, New York (auto-

mobile parts and oil products); Thermoking Corporation International Division of Minneapolis, Minnesota (transport refrigeration and temperature control); Westinghouse Electrical Corporation of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (electric and electronic products and services); EZ Logic Data Systems of Southfield, Michigan (electronic components and mainframe computers); General Motors Corporation of Detroit, Michigan (automobiles and trucks); The Rice Council of Houston, Texas (rice industry research); MEH Surgical Corp. of Plainfield, Indiana; Luxor California Exports Corporation of San Diego, California (agricultural commodities); York International Corporation of York, Pennsylvania (heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems); American-Iraq Finance and Trade Inc. of McLean, Virginia (fluid and material handling products and

Continued on page 9

Briefs

By Ahmad Shaker

● The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank has approved the provision of loans to finance an agricultural project to be established on a 3500 dunum area in Mukhalha.

● The Potash Co. water bill owed to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is estimated at JD 250 million, according to JVA sources. The company has not settled its water bills for a number of years.

● The government will revise its bilateral commercial and economic cooperation agreements with a number of Arab countries in terms of these countries' commitments to articles in these agreements. It is said that only the Jordanian side has honoured these agreements.

● The central bank governors of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) countries have agreed recently on accepting payments for national exports among the ACC countries in local currencies according to an exchange rate list to be adopted by the four central banks.

● Tender documents will be issued soon for the supply of a water pumping station at Fubeis. Other tenders will cover the improvement of spring utilisation. Total value of these tenders are said to be JD 5 million.

● The Jordanian government has received KD 307,000 part of a loan from the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development for a project to increase the production of the Jordanian mines.

● The government has decided to control foreign debts by keeping it at its current levels. The costs of servicing these debts will be planned to meet with expected economic performance. Borrowing will be limited to projects with high profitability.

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6 mo.	8.1/8	8.15/32	14.25/32	7.65	8.5/8
1 year	8.3/16	8.19/32	14.1/2	7.65	8.1/2

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 7.5%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.0%, 1 month 8.00%, 2 months 8.25%, 3 months 8.50%, 1 year 9.0%. Lending rate (AAA) 12.5%.

Dollar:

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST	1.6498/03	1.4163/73	1.8085/95	148.28/33	1.558/63	5.5320/40

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Gold & Silver

	Gold	Silver
1kg	8,050.00	
21 ct	7,000	
18 ct	6,000	
Eng. pound		58,000
8g		51,000
Rashad:		9,000
7g		
24ct (swiss)		150,000

Money Matters

Average exchange rates on
in Jls
Tuesday 17/7/1990

	Buy	Sell
US\$	664.0	668.0
£	1186.7	1193.8
DM	400.2	402.6
SFR	471.1	473.9
FRF	119.3	120.0
YEN	447.6	450.3
(100)		
DKK	355.0	357.1
SKR	110.6	111.3
LIT	54.7	55.0
(100)		
RLF	194.9	196.1
(10)		

Matchmaking

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This free-of-charge service is available to local and foreign businessmen. To publish your commercial interests in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

Made in Jordan

Following are addresses of
importers in Saudi Arabia
that might be interested in
Jordanian hand-knotted
carpets:

1. Abdul Aziz Mohamed Bin
Nasser Stores,
P.O. Box 29,
Shomlasi Street,
Riyadh.

2. Al Gammaz Est.,
P.O. Box 4310,
Malaz,

60th Street,
Riyadh.

3. The Green Glove Stores,
P.O. Box 85,
King Faisal Street,
Riyadh.

4. Mohamed Bin Telase Est.,
P.O. Box 5650,
Assir Street,
Riyadh.

5. Wadi Hanifa Est. for
Trading,
P.O. Box 67,
King Faisal Street,
Riyadh.

For further information on
importers of hand-knotted
carpets worldwide, please
contact the Jordan Trade
Association, P.O. Box
830432 Amman - Jordan,
Tel. 685603/4.

Baghdad to host fair

Continued from page 8

industrial automation systems distributor); Johnson Controls of Brisbane, California (building management); Eastman Kodak Company of Rochester, New York (film, photo finishing equipment and cameras); Munro-Lid. of Detroit, Michigan (engines, transmissions, filters, forklift trucks, hand tools); NCR Corporation of Dayton, Ohio (business information systems); Xerox Middle East and North Africa Operations of London, England (business products).

Iraq is developing capabilities in high-tech solar energy and integrated circuitry. Private sector activity revolves around agriculture, food processing, construction, textiles, tourism, services and retailing.

Baghdad is the US' third largest customer in the Middle East after Egypt and Saudi Arabia and is seen as the last major unexploited market in the region.

billions in US goods flowed into Iraq, representing a mere 1.7 per cent gain since 1988. In 1989, the US faced a \$1.23 billion trade deficit with Iraq.

In the first quarter of 1990, US imports from Iraq amounted to \$1 billion. That represented a marked 123 per cent jump since the first quarter of 1989. Meanwhile, Iraqi imports from this country in the first quarter of this year reached \$433.6 million, up 40 per cent from the same period in 1989.

The Iraqi Ministry of Trade says the best prospects are: automotive and machinery parts; construction materials and chemicals; construction machinery, equipment and services; agricultural equipment, supplies, and commodities; electrical and power generation equipment and services; electrical accessories; food processing equipment and machinery; storage materials and household goods; stationary pharmaceuticals; handicapped and rehabilitation products; industry production machinery and robotics; irrigation equipment; and communications facilities.

Jakarta Fair offers numerous opportunities to Jordanian exporters

Continued from page 8

and Indonesian businessmen, introduce and promote Jordanian-made products in the Indonesian market and select agents for Jordanian products.

The Jordanian participation in the Fair resulted in finding Indonesian agents for a number of products exhibited. It also portrayed Jordan as an industrial country in this part of the world and facilitated contacts with Indonesian suppliers for raw materials since Indonesia is a major producer of rubber, wood, palm oil, tea, coffee and chemicals.

Jordan exports to Indonesia are mainly potash and phosphates while imports include wood, coconut, textiles, batteries, tubes, tyres and palm oil.

The prospect for trade between the two countries seems to be very promising, according to JTA. The Indonesian market is a very large and diversified and the country has trade relations with most countries of the world.

Business Notes

Computer in business

COMPUTERS IN Jordan today are no longer a luxury. All big businesses and very many smaller ones own or work with computers in some capacity. This is good news, but still lacking is an adequate level of training for those who use computers. According to Marwan Bataineh, director of Future Computer Systems, "managers and businessmen who can spend a few more hours on better use of their computers will reap vast benefits in reduced costs and saved time. Training for these groups is probably one of the best investments a company can make."

In Jordan, we are probably ahead of many countries in this respect, but we still have a long way to go to catch up with the higher international standard. Rapid change is particularly important in the computer field. Jordan's professionals can cope, but greater awareness and training are key factors in this equation.

Shows & Exhibitions

Baghdad fairs

TWO INTERNATIONAL fairs will be held in Baghdad this year.

The first is the Food, Soaps and Detergents Fair in ACC countries. It will be held in the middle of October 1990.

The second fair will be held between 18-22 October and will be dedicated to the biscuits industry.

Interested parties should contact Amman tel: 842257, fax 842256, PO Box 6054, Amman-Jordan.

Contacts and contracts

TN: Tender Number; TD: Price of Tender Documents; BB: Value of Bid Bond; DS: Deadline for Sale of Tender Documents; DD: Date Sale of Tender Documents Begins; SB: Deadline for Submission of Bids; BO: Date Bids are Opened.

— Waqas Rural Council/ North Ghor, supply of 250 litres of insecticides, BB: 5%, SB: 25/7/90.

— Jordan Chicken Marketing and Supply Co., supply of 2.5-3 ton refrigerated car. Call: 824705.

— Jordan Cement Factories Co., TN: 20/90, supply of walkie talkies, TD: JD 10, SB: 15/8/90, TN: 21/90, supply of brick retainers, cooler grate plates, TD: JD 20, SB: 15/8/90, TN: 22/90, supply lathe machine, TD: JD 10, SB: 15/8/90, BB for all: 5%.

— Government Tenders Dept., TN: 46/90, 47/90, 48/90, Construction of schools, SB: 29/8/90.

— Jordan Electricity Authority, re-tendering TN: 15/90, supply and installing five prevention automatic system, BB: 5%, TD: JD 5, SB: 1/8/90.

— Central Tenders Committee/ government tenders, TN: 49/90, conducting studies and designs for Ras Nagab — Aqaba back crossroad, TD: 25, SB: 4/8/90.

— Ministry of Water and Irrigation, TN: 4/90, supply and installing of sewage network for the Petraw/Zerqa project, TD: JD 25, SB: 18/8/90.

— Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co., TN: Transport/3/90, transport 150,000 tons of fuel

oil from Iraq to Zerqa, TD: Free, SB: 22/7/90.

— Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co., TN: 5/90/ works and 6/90/ Works, asphaltting parking area and modernising electric and telephone cables, TD: JD 5 and JD 20 respectively, SB: 24/7/90.

— Jordan Selphochemical Co., TN: 13/9, transport of 800 tons of chemicals to Dammam, Saudi Arabia, contact Tel: 991434, SB: 29/7/90.

— General Supplies Dept., TN: 197/90, supply of medicines to chest diseases dept. TD: JD 5, SB: 24/7/90.

— Government Tenders Dept., TN: 53/90/ Central, execution of construction works on the Thagrat Jub water project, TD: JD 50, SB: 18/8/90.

— Government Tenders Dept., TTN: 52/90, replacement of 11 kilometres long pipeline with metal pipes in Zerqa, TD: JD 200, SB: 322/8/90.

— The Ministry of Education, the Seventh Educational Project number 2890, the following tenders: TN: 5/90, supply of furniture, TD: JD 20, TN: 6/90, audio visual equipment, TD: JD 15, TN: 7/90, laboratory equipment, TD: JD 20, TN: 8/90, kitchen education tools, TD: JD 15, TN: 9/90, art studio, TD: JD 15, TN: 10/90, sports equipment, TD: JD 10, TN: 11/90, vocational training, TD: JD 15.

Retendering: TN: 12/90, computer, TD: JD 10, TN: 13/90, electrical works in computer halls, TD: JD 10, SB for all of the above: 1/9/90.

THE STAR 9

19 JULY 1990

Our Say...

Real dangers

IT IS MAJESTY King Hussein was not exaggerating when he described the future of this region as "bleak and dangerous" in a televised interview with America's ABC network which was aired here on Tuesday. The King in his bold statements, also warned that war could erupt in the area over the influx of Jewish immigrants into Israel and the occupied Arab territories.

The king's declarations do not come from void. The events of the past three years have led him and other sober observers of the region to the conclusion that unless a determined plan for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East is forged and implemented, the future does indeed look bleak with prospects of war between the Arabs and the Israelis becoming a reality with each passing day.

The King has confirmed figures that at least 18 million Jewish immigrants are expected to pour into Israel over the coming 18 months. With the area's limited natural resources, especially water and land, and with the dispute over the fate of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights still unresolved, it is clear that any infringement on the demographic and territorial realities of these areas will only lead to exacerbating the conflict.

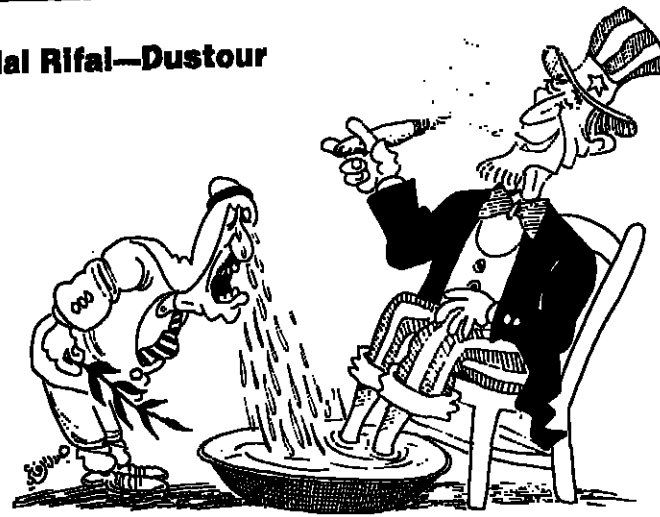
By the same token, leaving the situation as it is with no genuine movement towards peace in the region will also deny the people's of this area the opportunity of living in peace. It is thus the responsibility of the United States, a country which has taken it upon itself to back and support Israel's aggressive policies in the past, to rectify its behaviour and assume a more balanced and responsible role as peace broker.

With an extremist government now seated in occupied Jerusalem, the situation today truly reminds us of the days which preceded the 1967 war, when the protagonists to the conflict reached a dead end in their search for peace. We must never allow despair and extremism to drive us towards a war, which the Arabs clearly do not want.

At the same time, it is important to note that the Arabs of today are not those of 1967. Things have changed and the Arabs know very well that it is their future and not only the Palestinians' which is threatened. Any attempt by Israel to repeat its adventure of 1967 will not be allowed to take place—at least it will not end with the same results.

King Hussein has been described as a man of vision and wisdom. His words must not be taken as mere rhetoric. His experience and understanding of the issues at hand give him the right to point to the dangers which threaten the peoples of this region, and they are real.

Jalal Rifal—Dustour



Mandela stirs up US consciousness

By Masood Haider
Special to the Star

NEW YORK - When African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela went on record calling Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat "my comrade at arms" and embracing Cuba's Fidel Castro and Libya's Muammar Qaddafi as being friends of the African National Congress movement, he created quite a furor, which only the likes of him could survive.

Mandela's forthright and principled stand ruffled the feathers of the ABC network's interviewer Ted Koppel, who is known for his tough and defiant questioning. The Jewish audience who tried to boo Mandela down on the now famous "town meeting" show was itself hooted and ejected into silence by other members of the audience.

When he came to speak at the United Nations General Assembly at a special meeting of the UN Committee on Apartheid, Mandela once again mentioned the struggle of the Palestinian people along with his own. After the special meeting, Mandela addressed a press conference where the first question put to him was: "Mr Mandela in the past you have praised great Zionists leaders like David Ben Gurion, Menachem Begin etc. who were Zionists, and freedom fighters; there is a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly which equates Zionism with racism. What is your position on that?" Mandela without skipping a beat answered, "When Zionism takes over Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza, and when it tortures and kills Palestinians, I condemn Zionism."

The Arab diplomats, who had recently suffered the blow of the US suspension of talks with the PLO, felt elated by the unsolicited support given to their cause by Mandela. They could not thank him enough for infusing the debate among the Americans, above all the black Americans.

The black Americans, many of whom prefer to be called African-Americans, have been as averse to the idea of Palestinian rights as any average American. However, in likening the cause of Palestine to that of his own movement, Mandela has made these Americans aware of the issue and made them more conscious of developments in the Middle East.

Up to now, leaders like Jesse Jackson and Atlanta's Mayor Andrew Jackson have pleaded fruitlessly to the Democrats to listen to the Arab side of the Middle East story. Invariably they have been overwhelmed by the more powerful pro-

Israel lobby. Now it is hoped that as the perception of Palestine begins to change in the minds of black Americans, the debate and perhaps the pressure will build up as well.

Mandela, who came to the United States to plead to the US government and Congress to keep up the sanctions against the white South African government, seems to have succeeded in his mission for the time being. The impression he has left on the black Americans (in Harlem, for example, he addressed a crowd of more than 200,000) is immense although its significance is yet to be measured.

"I think you're going to see a lot of African-Americans break out of the cycle of hopelessness," said Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., executive director of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice. "We have a new Jerusalem. When he gets back to South Africa, we have to keep that flame alive and thank God Mandela has lit that flame that was extinguished in the 60's." Chavis was obviously referring to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Nelson Mandela's visit has shown the hunger for leadership of integrity and dignity and humility in Black America," observed Cornel West, a religion professor and director of the African American Studies at Princeton University. "I was there at Riverside Church, I was there at the Koppel show, and I was there in Harlem. And the hunger in people's eyes for leadership with integrity is profound. And we simply don't have it."

However, many black leaders disagree with the assertion of Cornel West, pointing out that Mandela's long imprisonment, the urgency of the struggle against apartheid and the fact that he is a foreigner rather than a domestic US figure make such comparisons inappropriate.

For many other black Americans there are several other soul-searching questions like how far the enthusiasm that has greeted Mandela can carry.

Despite the fact that Mandela resolutely refused to be drawn into any domestic American issue, he spoke about one—the American Indians, with whom he was unable to meet during his visit here and promised to talk to them when he visits the United States in October.

Long after Mandela's visit the analysis and assessment of the impact of his visit to the United States is likely to continue. In the words of Benjamin F. Chavis, "Mr. Mandela has given us a vision of what is necessary. We now have to go about the hard task of rebuilding, reknowing and reconstructing a movement that will produce many Mandelas."

A special section
on global affairs prepared for
The Star

The World Paper

July
1990

TAX WARS ON THREE CONTINENTS

THE ELDERLY LADY, well over 70 years old and dressed in cheap clothes, looked distraught as she walked into the office of the Finance Secretariat, Mexico's tax collection bureau.

She stood in line for half an hour until she got to the window and spoke to the teller. She was told to go to another window, then to another and another. By the time a newspaper reporter caught a glimpse of her, she was sitting on the floor on the verge of tears.

"I don't want to go to jail," she said. "I want to pay my taxes, but I don't even know how to begin."

The woman, whose plight was reported in a Mexican newspaper, sold lottery tickets for a living. Like most Mexicans, she had been outside of the official economy for years. Last year, however, new tax regulations were enacted, designed specifically to enforce payment of the billions of pesos owed by Mexicans who had never paid taxes before.

Taxes: to pay or not to pay

By SERGIO SARMIENTO in Mexico City, Mexico

The new regulations were combined with an extensive campaign to remind citizens of their fiscal obligations—and the penalties for noncompliance. Some very well-known personalities, such as rock star Angel Brizzuela, were jailed on tax evasion charges.

The effort is paying off; tax income is expected to rise by US\$6 billion dollars this year, according to Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe. If his projections are correct, the new revenue will be equivalent to more than 8 percent of all government spending, a significant step in the effort to bring down the government deficit, which was 16 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 1987, to only 1.6 percent in 1990.

Continued on next page



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Quakes and building codes

To the editor:

AFTER READING "Living along the great divide," (The Star 28 June) I refer to the boxed article: "Should an earthquake hit the country."

I am not qualified to discuss or elaborate on the subject from a geological or geographical angle, but allow me to make some comments from the structural point of view.

The writer should have addressed a number of questions including: The degree of the major earthquake which will destroy most of Amman's buildings, its frequency, and what is the percentage of buildings that will actually crumble to the ground.

I doubt if any one is in a position to answer these questions, but I dare confirm the following views:

Local construction style such as the bearing stone walls is the type of building which endures better than any type of construction. From the structural point of view it provides the efficient shear walls to resist seismic forces.

Municipalities building regulations are detailed and are followed in a strict manner. In general regulations rarely allow high rise buildings in residential areas, and that applies over the whole geographical areas of the kingdom.

In 1985 after approving the "code of loads and forces" by the highest technical and legal authorities, this code was enforced to be followed by all designers, and I believe they do follow it specially in the case of public buildings and high rise buildings.

This code is compared to the best codes of the advanced countries and made use of their experience.

The writer says that there are no accelerographs in Jordan. Wrong! We have many, please refer to the Royal Scientific Society and the Natural Resources Authority.

I am glad that some of our academic colleagues are aware of the need to update our codes and we are all eagerly awaiting the results of their research. But if we wait up to long we may never have a code to follow.

Ghassan Ghanem
Amman

The Star

10 THE STAR

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10 JULY 1990

TAX WARS

To pay or not to pay

Continued from previous page

But for people like the lottery saleswoman, hardly able to read and write, incapable of filling out even the simplest of tax forms or of maintaining accounting records, the fiscal campaign has struck a note of terror in a life already filled with uncertainty.

Mexico's fiscal reform program is in many ways a reflection of what is becoming a general trend in underdeveloped countries. The fiscal experiments of the 1980s in the United States and Great Britain—inspired by the so-called Laffer curve which predicts reduced fiscal expectations with increased tax rates—have made many countries change their ineffectual "soak-the-rich" tax systems. Thus, governments have reduced top tax rates in an effort to encourage productive investment while "expanding the tax base," or, in other words, attempting to make everyone pay their taxes (see table).

In Mexico, the top individual income tax rate was 55 percent just a few years ago, but has dropped to 35 percent this year. Companies also saw their maximum rates reduced, from 42 to 40 percent in 1989, and reduced further to 35 percent this year. Fiscal loopholes, however, have been closed. Tax breaks benefiting hundreds of groups, from peasants and cattle raisers to taxi drivers and authors, have been eliminated. Businesses and professionals have seen many of their favorite deductions disallowed, including restaurant entertaining.

In a country where paying taxes has been the exception rather than the rule, enforcement of tax laws has become more intense. Just two years ago, only 1 out of 100 returns from companies or individuals were audited by the authorities. That figure is now 1 out of

Sergio Sarmiento, editor-in-chief of *Enciclopedia Britannica, Inc.* (Latin America), is also a newspaper columnist and radio commentator in Mexico.

The little people's problem

Many still believe rich don't pay enough

TWO CENTURIES WOULD seem to be long enough to change some of the certainties of life. In 1789, Benjamin Franklin could confidently write that "in this world, nothing is certain but death and taxes." But in 1989, American billionaire Leona Helmsley could be quoted in court as having said to her housekeeper, "We don't pay taxes. Only the little people pay taxes."

The fact that Mrs. Helmsley was eventually convicted on tax evasion charges tells us that things haven't changed completely—the rich at least have to worry when they do not pay their taxes. But it doesn't prove Mr.

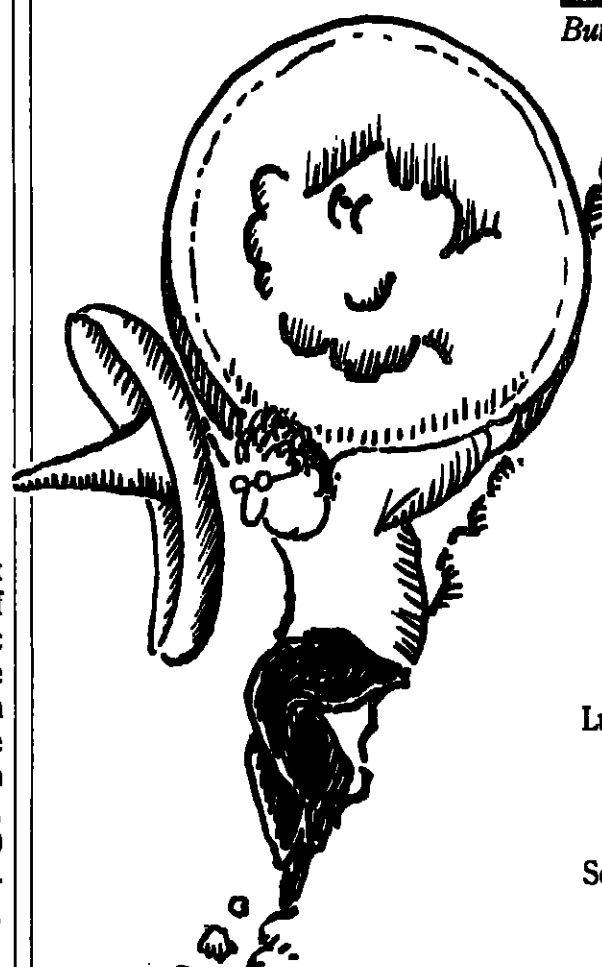
Franklin necessarily right. In fact, an inordinate number of Americans who heard or read Mrs. Helmsley's alleged statement truly believed that she was merely expressing a well-known fact.

And this belief is widespread not only in America. A public opinion poll published last November by *Cambio 16*, a Spanish news weekly, showed that 84 percent of all Spaniards believe that the rich do not fully pay their taxes. This perception would probably apply to most countries in the world, regardless of the level of compliance—by poor or rich—to tax laws.

S.S.

A taxing burden

But top individual tax rates fall



Source: Compilation by Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand. Quoted by Francisco Gil Diaz in "La modernidad del sistema tributario mexicano," *El Mercado de Valores*, December 1, 1989.

Country	1985 (percent)	1989 (percent)
Argentina	45	35
Austria	62	50
Belgium	21.5	58
Brazil	60	29
Canada	34	27
Chile	56	50
Denmark	73	72
Finland	51	44
France	65	56.8
Ireland	65	58
Italy	65	50
Japan	70	50
Luxembourg	37	58.8
Mexico	55	40
Norway	40	27.5
Panama	56	56
South Korea	70.1	63.7
Spain	66	56
Sweden	80	72
Switzerland	11.5	11.5
United Kingdom	60	60
United States	50	28
West Germany	56	56

carry an inordinate share of the tax burden.

The emergence among Latin America's poor of a thriving informal economy—enterprises not legally recognized by the government—is described by social scientist Hernando de Soto in his book *El Otro Sendero* ("The Other Path"). He argues that this economy is not the result of attempts to avoid paying taxes, but rather the result of using administrative systems tailored to the needs of more-developed countries.

Mr. de Soto's work has been fundamental in changing some Latin American tax authorities' attitudes about the informal economy. In the past it was thought that anyone who did not have enough education to understand the law, or sufficient financial resources to hire lawyers and accountants, would be confined to the low-skill workforce. Now, governments are beginning to recognize that the informal economy represents an entrepreneurial spirit which should not be curbed.

"Anyone who walks around the streets of downtown Mexico City, or of any other important city in Mexico, cannot fail to notice that the underground or informal economy exists," says Francisco Gil Diaz, income undersecretary at the Finance Secretariat. "Should the authorities repress the (informal economy)? I don't think so. These activities must be channeled, not eliminated."

Official recognition of the informal economy, which is not only beyond the reach of the tax system but of all other legislation, has yet to result in a simplification of bureaucratic procedures that

would allow the informals to join the legal economy. A recent study by Mexico City's Chamber of Commerce estimated that 32 different legal steps were necessary to establish a business in Mexico's capital. An official at this chamber confided that it is still virtually impossible for anyone without a formal education or the help of a lawyer to set up a legal company in Mexico.

Mexico City's municipal government has attempted to give a semblance of legality to the informal economy by charging sidewalk merchants a tax for the use of public space. This does not automatically turn such merchants into legal companies, with all the pertaining rights and obligations, but it at least grants them some kind of official recognition.

Undersecretary Diaz doesn't think that Mexico has found a solution to all the inequalities and shortcomings of its tax system. "We are not in the happy world of Voltaire's *Candide*, where things were right just because of the fact they were. We still have much to do. We must fine-tune, strengthen and simplify fiscal measures."

For the time being, Mexicans are apparently breaking their tradition of not paying taxes. Fear of prosecution has become the most important incentive, at least among the middle class. But the system is still not perceived as fair by most taxpayers. And while this perception continues, complaints of "fiscal terrorism" will continue to mar the government's efforts to convince taxpayers that, in the long run, everyone will benefit from tax compliance.



In Argentina, new rules in old game of tax evasion

Government hopes tough penalties will scare cheaters

By FERNANDO FLORES
in Buenos Aires, Argentina

WHILE THE ARGENTINES have the dubious honor of being among the world's worst tax-evasion offenders, public and governmental attitudes toward taxation have been changing recently.

Tax reform is one of the main goals of President Carlos Menem's administration as part of an overall effort to reduce the fiscal deficit and end government corruption. Recent tax-reform legislation has been passed which stresses new, harsh penalties for those who remain outside the law. The government also plans to enlist modern technology to track down tax evaders.

Nevertheless, the government recognizes that new laws aren't enough—as Raul Granillo Ocampo, legal and technical secretary to the presidency, warned—and that it needs to foster new behavior in society. Government experts grant that in the past the tax system was a bewildering maze of regula-

Fernando Flores is a Buenos Aires-based journalist who writes for *El Cronista Comercial*.

tions with no exit. The government's latest tax-reform strategy stresses simplification of the tax codes as well as a reduction in the number of taxes.

This does not mean, however, that the government will no longer seek to prosecute tax evaders. That is why Carlos Garcia Lorea, head of Argentina's federal tax collection bureau, the Direccion General Impositiva (DGI), declined to free the incarcerated en-

Menem: Smile now, prosecute later.

preneur Hector Salgado. Salgado was accused of defrauding the treasury of over US\$200 million (the largest tax evasion case in Argentine history). The prosecutor stated that he should not be freed "to show that sometimes true justice is done in Argentina, and that a powerful man cannot escape the law."

In a bold move to enforce compliance, the government threatens, under the new tax code, to publish a list of businessmen who have failed to comply with DGI. Faced with such harsh enforcement measures, owners of several well-known corporations have called for laws guaranteeing universal compliance. The president of the Argentine Industrial Union, Gilberto Montagna, went even further and said that those who do not pay are unfairly competing with honest businessmen.

"What we are aiming for," said Undersecretary of Public Finance Raul Cuello, "is an Argentina that has a fair taxation system and for fiscal obligations to be complied with in a voluntary fashion and in a much better way than up to now. Unfortunately, so far the burden has been on the shoulders of lower-income sectors."

Tax evasion is a common practice among Argentines. In general, people feel that the money they give to the government will be used to feed an inefficient bureaucracy that, in turn, feeds off of corruption. The so-called "informal economy," commerce and enterprises that aren't legally recognized by the government, serves as a refuge for evaders. In the informal economy, transactions are never recorded in either the business or the individual's accounts. Individual income tax statements rarely reflect the true earnings of the taxpayers. At the same time, most small- and medium-sized businesses, in an effort to avoid paying taxes, do not give bills to their customers.

So far, this type of behavior has seldom been punished. Tax compliance has been further complicated by all the effective legal methods of avoiding taxes. But, according to tax experts, new legislation and the certainty that the government is willing to reduce its excessive spending and improve its efficiency might lead to serious reform.

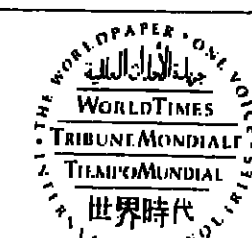
Our own opinion Pole

THIS IS THE first issue of *The WorldPaper* prepared under the guidance of our new editor, Daniel Passent. Recently relocated to Boston from his home in Warsaw, Poland, Mr. Passent brings a wealth of international experience and insight to the job.

AS DEPUTY EDITOR of Poland's influential weekly *Polska* for many years, Mr. Passent has covered everything from the Vietnam War (in Saigon and Hanoi) to a number of East-West summit meetings. Author of 10 books and fluent in four languages, he is perfectly suited to *The WorldPaper's* mission of presenting truly pluralistic perspectives on vital issues of international interest and import.



TAX WARS



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UK poll tax hated by everyone

No stiff upper lips

By DAVID SINCLAIR
in London, United Kingdom

A CARTOON IN a recent issue of the British political weekly *The Spectator* depicts two devils supervising the punishments of hell. One devil holds in his hand a paper labeled "Poll Tax," and is saying to his colleague: "I wish we'd thought of this."

The notion of the poll tax as cruel and unusual punishment has taken hold not only among the majority of people who have to pay it, but also among a large section of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservative Party, which was recently stung by its worst-ever showing in local elections.

The poll tax—officially known as the community charge—was devised by the Conservatives as a fairer alternative to the domestic rate, a tax on households through which local governments or councils raised part of the money needed to provide community services. The remainder of local councils' funding, about half, comes directly from the central government.

Conservatives believed the household tax system applied the tax burden unevenly. For example, under the old household tax system, a widow living alone was obliged to pay the same amount as a family of four wage earners living in an identical house next door. Under the new poll tax, the widow's bill

is one-quarter that of her neighbors, because the charge applies to every citizen over the voting age of 18 (hence the name "poll tax").

That, at least, is the theory. Unfortunately for Conservatives, it hasn't quite worked out as intended. Although some people are paying less, people living alone in areas where domestic rates were relatively low have found that their local tax bill has more than doubled. The effect of such an increase on families of modest income, and with children over 18 living at home, can easily be imagined and explains both the political damage to the Conservatives and some of the worst civil disorder Britain has seen since the 1930s. Because every local

Public outrage could unsettle Thatcher.

council determines the poll tax rate according to community funding needs, the poll tax varies—anywhere from 168 to as much as 770 pounds per year (US\$284 to \$1,300).

Earlier this year, anti-poll tax demonstrations turned into riots in many parts of the country. In London, 331 policemen and 86 civilians were injured and millions of pounds' worth of damage was done to property when a huge rally to protest the poll tax erupted into violence. Less spectacularly, an organized campaign of non-payment of the tax continues.

Thatcher's government is desperately trying to find ways of making the poll tax politically acceptable before the next national election, which must take place no later than 1992. Opinion polls and local voting trends indicate that if an election were held now, the opposition Labor Party would win by a landslide. Many Conservatives think the poll tax legislation, as an alternative to domestic rates, should have been changed a long time ago—or, better yet, never introduced.

But critics of the tax say that the government had plenty of warning about what was likely to happen. When the poll tax was experimentally introduced in Scotland in April 1989, the Scottish public was outraged. Half a million Scots were refusing to pay their first bills by the time the poll tax was introduced in the rest of the UK in April of this year.

Thatcher and her ministers brushed aside the Scottish experience, saying that there was bound to be initial

resistance to any new tax and that people would warm to it when they saw its advantages. Not only was it fairer than the domestic rates, they claimed, because every individual has an equal share of the burden, but it also made local government more accountable to the electorate. If the community charge was judged to be too high, Conservatives reasoned, voters would realize the local authority was either spending too much or was inefficient. They would then vote for a different party next time (most local councils in England are dominated by the opposition Labor Party).

Some people took those messages to heart and in local elections last May either put their votes behind councils setting relatively low poll tax rates or turned out those they judged to be too free with public money. In many areas, local authorities set community charges higher than those estimated by the government.

But even people who are paying less in poll taxes than they did under the old household tax rate system believe the poll tax is unfair because it takes no account of a person's ability to pay and because it has tended to benefit the well-to-do living in the smarter areas (where domestic rates were high) at the expense of the poor.

As Conservative Member of Parliament Sir George Young put it, "We have devised a system where the winners feel guilty and the losers feel livid."

For all its simplicity, practicality and logic, the concept of the poll tax has been shown to contain one perhaps fatal flaw: it offends the fabled British sense of fair play. ♦



US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady meets Minister Hashimoto: "Handsome as a Kabuki actor."

industrialists and merchants. So many, in fact, that laymen got the impression that the industrialists and merchants were getting more than their fair share of tax breaks.

Although the sales tax was set at a modest 3 percent, Japanese housewives, and even children, felt as if they were absorbing the full brunt of the new tax, not only because they do most of the daily small-item shopping, but because they now had to constantly carry a heavy supply of small change.

The LDP's failure to gain a majority in the House of Councillors was attributed at least in part to the housewives' revolt against the new tax. But beyond that, passage of the new sales tax legislation seemed to herald a wave of bad luck for the LDP. Noboru Takeshita, who introduced the legislation to the Diet, had already resigned as the prime minister because of a stock scandal. Sosuke Uno, who succeeded Takeshita, was plagued by several geisha scandals as soon as he came to power and had to resign after this electoral loss.

In elections for the House of Representatives (the lower, but politically more important house) early this year, the LDP retained more than enough seats for a majority under the leadership of party head Toshiki Kaifu.

The Japan Socialist Party, however, led by Takako Doi, made impressive gains in that election due in no small part to the party's ability to tap into the rising reservoir of anger at the LDP and their policies, including the sales tax. But the LDP held its grip on the lower house and the new tax survived. Delicate negotiations are continuing for its "revision."

There are many explanations for the LDP's success this time, including the electorate's misgivings about the ability of opposition politicians to lead the nation. But people give some credit to MOF Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

"As handsome as a Kabuki actor" is how many Japanese women describe him. After the introduction of the new tax, MOF ran a series of advertisements featuring an open letter by Hashimoto to the citizens, including a portrait of the handsome minister. "Let me once again explain the new tax to you," began the letter in one of the ads, which ended with a friendly suggestion to "please write to me and let me know about your opinion." Many women wrote to Mr. Hashimoto, whose fan mail was put to good use in LDP public relations campaigns.

This about-face on the sales tax over a period of little more than half a year shows how ambivalent Japanese taxpayers are about the taxes they pay. It also shows the young and immature nature of Japan as a democracy.

It is commonplace even among politically developed nations for citizens to view any advantage they can gain over the tax system as their "right." Japan's relatively new status as a democracy only strengthens these feelings in the public. But tax evasion in Japan is also linked to the public's perception that Japanese tax officials distribute the tax burden unfairly.

In a typically Japanese form of word-play, they once referred to the tax system as "Kuroyon" (the name of a hydroelectric dam in central Japan). Each syllable and vowel combination in the word "Kuroyon" refers to a cynical perception of how much each class is taxed. For instance, most wage earners get 9 (ku) out of 10 yen of their income assessed while merchants get six (ro-ku) and farmers only four (yon).

A more recent version of this word-play reflects growing cynicism over the fairness of the tax system. The recent version is "Tbhgh Sanpin" (Tbhgh is a famous admiral and sanpin is slang for "poor soldier"). Wage earners are assessed on 10 (toh) out of 10 yen and merchants on 5 (go) out of 10, while farmers get assessed on three (san) and politicians one (usually ichi, but sometimes called pin). ♦

Land of the rising sales tax

Taxes still remind Japanese of feudal era

By AKIYUKI KONISHI
in Tokyo, Japan

DURING ITS MEIJI modernization period (1868-1912), Japan imported Prussian drill instructors, American agricultural experts—and a Western tax system. But to the Japanese, the concept of taxes was familiar only from feudal times, when powerful warlords levied taxes from "up above" on farmers and merchants "down below" while the favored, such as the samurai (warrior) class, never paid.

Taxation was seen as a sacred prerogative of the emperor's government to raise revenue to strengthen the ruling class, not to make the people rich or healthy. Unfortunately, the political psychology of the Japanese public is not yet free of this feudal legacy despite several eras of rapid modernization. Post-war democracy has failed to make the people realize they pay taxes for their own benefit.

Last summer, a disillusioned Japanese electorate denied the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) a majority in the House of Councillors, Japan's upper house, in the wake of several embarrassing government scandals (Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's tainted stock

deal, closely followed by Prime Minister Sosuke Uno's geisha problems).

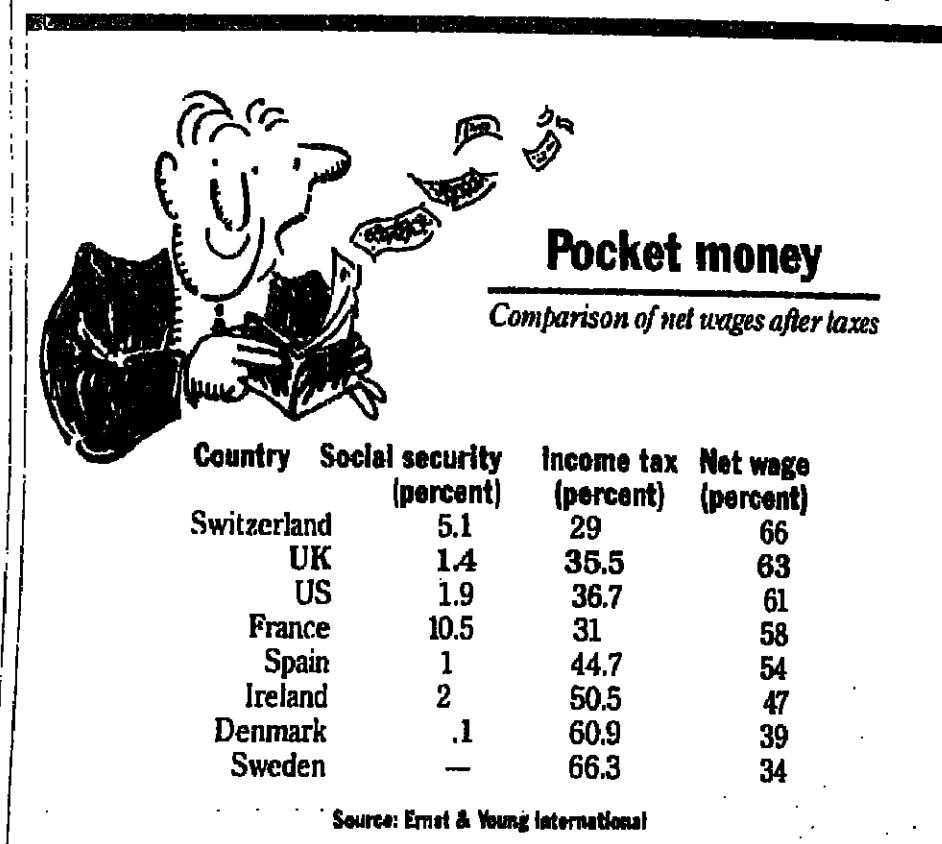
As if those shenanigans weren't enough, the increasingly irate public felt there was another reason to vote against the LDP: a new sales tax enacted earlier that year.

Approved by the Diet, Japan's parliament, at the end of 1988, the tax was the outcome of nearly eight years of haggling among politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen. During the extended haggling, the sales tax, sometimes known as the "jumbo indirect tax," was put on and off the government agenda many times before it was finally introduced to the Diet in the summer of 1988 along with five other tax-reform measures, including income tax reduction legislation.

These measures comprised the first major tax-reform package in Japan since 1948 when the taxation system was overhauled on the advice of American experts. LDP politicians and Ministry of Finance (MOF) officials boasted that this latest reform package would put Japan on the fast track to the 21st century by making existing tax structures more compatible with European and American systems.

Indeed, the new tax package helped balance the ratio of direct to indirect taxes, which had long favored direct taxes on wages. But during the extended wrangling over the legislation, the government made many concessions to

Akiyuki Konishi is former North America bureau chief for Japan's *Mainichi Shimbun*.



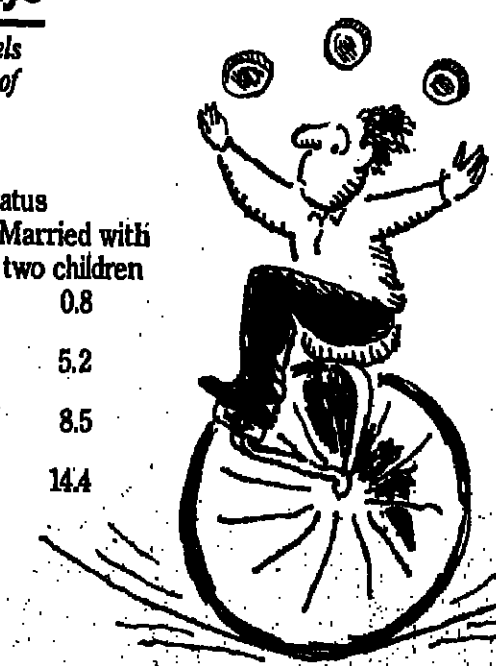
Parenthood pays

Japanese income tax levels expressed as percentage of income in 1989

Annual earnings	Filing Status	
	Single	Married with two children
US\$23,000	7.4	0.8
\$38,000	10.2	5.2
\$54,000	14.1	8.5
\$77,000	20	14.4

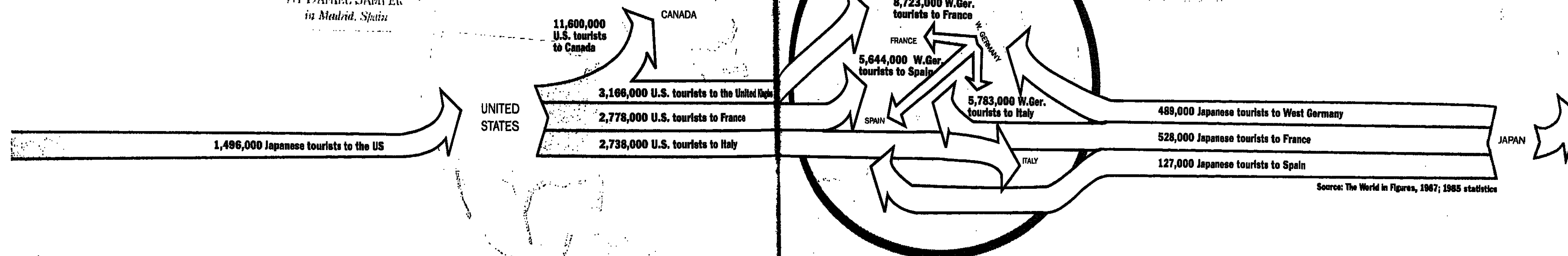
All figures include national and local taxes.

Source: Ministry of Finance, Japan



Sumiyaki's World Tour to Spain

BY DANIEL SAMPER
in Madrid, Spain



WELCOME! Spain is different." So says the billboard at the Andalusian airport. Maybe Spain is different—but not at the airport. Except for that billboard, everything looks exactly like Heathrow Airport, in London, from where this group of Japanese tourists embarked almost two hours ago. When the plane lands, Mr. Sumiyaki is asleep.

He dozes with the plastic taste of the food and red wine (which always looks like more in the bottle than in the glass) still in his mouth. It's always the same when he travels on... Iberia? Or is it Japan Air Lines? Pan Am? (Wrong, Mr. Sumiyaki: this time it's British Airways.) Anyway, his wife is happy to be—finally!—in Spain. Which is different. That's what the billboard says.

Mr. Sumiyaki takes a look out his window. Here it is! The Malaga airport. Malaga: Picasso's hometown...guitars...flamenco...beautiful señoritas...He thinks the air has a special transparency here in Malaga. Even from the airplane seat, he thinks, you can feel the magical Malagan air. He takes a picture of enchanting Malaga.

(Wrong again, Mr. Sumiyaki: the Malaga airport was too crowded, so this time the tour will begin in Seville. We are now in the Seville airport.)

Daniel Samper is a WorldPaper associate editor.

Mr. Sumiyaki, his wife and the rest of the party are excited to be in Malaga, or rather, Seville. They planned this trip for three years: Rome, Vienna, Zurich, Paris, London and now Malaga—er, Seville. A ten-day tour. Four years ago they went to the United States for a seven-day tour: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, New York and Boston. Next time it'll be Eastern Europe, or the Caribbean: Miami, San Juan, Santo Domingo, Cancun, and Acapulco. (Ith, ich, Mr. Sumiyaki: Acapulco is not in the Caribbean; it's on the Pacific coast.)

After leaving the airport, the group is taken to an international hotel. Mr. Sumiyaki is not sure which hotel they are to stay in. Is it the Hilton (No, the Hilton was in London), the Intercontinental (Wrong again: the Intercontinental was in Paris last weekend and in Washington four years ago), the Hyatt (Sorry: Rome and Boston) or the Holiday Inn? (You got it, Mr. Sumiyaki: it's the Holiday Inn.)

On the way to the hotel, Mr. Sumiyaki and his group have a hair-raising experience, maybe even a dangerous one. The bus is on the highway when, suddenly, there it is—a big, black, sharp-horned, frightening bull. Mr. Sumiyaki's wife releases a shriek and Mr. Sumiyaki, instead of taking a picture, covers his face in anguish. Others do the same.

But Pepe, the bus driver, laughs. "Don't

worry, it isn't a real bull. It's just a billboard ad for sherry wine," he explains. Spain is different.

They look up timidly. The bull is still there. Beside the bull, there are many familiar billboards welcoming the visitors: Yamaha, Sony, Lacoste, Pierre Cardin, Panasonic, Bayern, Kodak, Philips, Ford, Citizen... Mr. Sumiyaki sighs in relief.

But, wait, his wife has just seen something strange, which she points out to the group. They run to the window. There, side by side with the billboards, Mrs. Sumiyaki has just discovered a small, white house: Bar Manolo. Manolo is by the door. He has a black moustache, a big sombrero and cowboy boots. He smiles. Mr. Sumiyaki takes a picture. Manolo himself waves at them when the bus stops in bumper-to-bumper traffic on the highway.

"Sayonara!" shouts Manolo. "Vaya con Dios!" shouts Mr. Sumiyaki, who took a Spanish language course on cassettes.

"Don't bother," Pepe tells him. "He doesn't understand. He is Greek. And the is Mexican."

The group lunches at the hotel in a marvelous Japanese restaurant, where Mr. Sumiyaki takes several pictures. Now it's siesta time. But Mr. Sumiyaki is not sleeping. He already slept on the plane. So he turns on the TV set and spends the afternoon watching

an Australian tennis match that is being transmitted via satellite. This morning he had watched the first match of the day in Paris (Was it Paris? That city with the big clock and the soldiers dressed up in red, remember?) and is happy to catch up with the tournament in Seville—or did I say Malaga?

Today the schedule is generous: every man for himself. Unless you want to join a flamenco party. The Sumiyakis decide to have dinner before going to the party. Mr. Akahiro, a friend who visited Spain last year, told them about Spanish food: too oily and heavy. But they discover that Mr. Akahiro is wrong. The cheeseburger (or is it a plain hamburger?) and the Diet Coke (or is it a Diet Pepsi?) that they have at McDonald's (or is it Burger King?) are very much like in Tokyo, Zurich, Vienna or Rome. Maybe the french fries are a little oily. But not much more than the french fries they had last Tuesday at Wendy's in London. Or was it at Wimpy? (Wrong again, Mr. Sumiyaki: it wasn't London but Paris and it wasn't on Tuesday but on Monday.) Anyway, he takes some more pictures.

It's a warm night for the tablao party. They are taken to a typical tablao, where a nice señor, who speaks perfect English (maybe Greek, like Pepe—I mean, Manolo), introduces them to a tropical fruit cocktail, a group of dancers and a flamenco singer. There are 300 other Japanese tourists in the tablao. Mr. Sumiyaki takes one cocktail and many pic-

tures. Fifty-five minutes later the party is over. Another group, this time made up mostly of Germans, waits impatiently at the door to come in.

Mr. Sumiyaki is glad to be back at the hotel. The tennis match is still in progress on the TV. He remembers that Mr. Akahiro was surprised to discover how late Spaniards go to bed, so Mr. and Mrs. Sumiyaki decide to take advantage of their only night in Spain and they go downstairs—to El Patio, a typical Spanish bar in the basement of the hotel. Mr. Akahiro was right. It's almost midnight and the bar is full; besides the members of the Japanese tour, there is a group of British tourists and several Swedish couples. Mr. Sumiyaki drinks another tropical fruit cocktail and then they go to bed. Early tomorrow the bus will pick them up to take them to the (Seville? Malaga?) airport. Mysterious Lisboa? Oporto? Coimbra? awaits them!

There is sadness in the air (or is it just wetness?) when the group boards the plane. Spain, all 26 hours of it, is over. The Japanese continue their tour around the US—er, Europe. While the passengers find their seats and fasten their belts, Mrs. Sumiyaki stares out the window. Suddenly she gets very excited. There is a chicken walking near the plane. Or is it a seagull? Several members of the tour run to the window. Mr. Sumiyaki takes his last picture.

Spain, is it different? ♦

Great escapes

Top tourist destinations in 1989

Country	Visitors (in millions)
1. France	41.0
2. US	38.3
3. Spain	36.0
4. Italy	27.0
5. Austria	17.0
6. UK	16.6
7. Canada	16.0
8. Czechoslovakia	14.0
9. W. Germany	13.7
10. Switzerland	11.9
11. China	10.9
12. Hungary	10.6
13. Yugoslavia	9.0
14. Bulgaria	8.0
15. Greece	7.9

Source: World Tourism Organization

TOURISM

Elephants on parade

Developing nations adopt new tactics to draw tourists

By JULIAN M. WEISS
in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

THIS PAST APRIL, some 20,000 runners ran through the streets of this Southeast Asian capital city to celebrate the Sultan of Johor's birthday. Traditional Malaysian shadowplays and festival games amused throngs along the shaded city streets. To the southeast, the historic port of Malacca revealed its first facelift in 600 years; in the Malaysian state of Sarawak, banners proclaimed world peace and elephant parades drew crowds of bemused tourists.

The festivities were all part of the country's self-proclaimed "Visit Malaysia Year," which, following the lead of Thailand's successful tourist promotion campaign, hopes to draw a continuous supply of foreign visitors—and cash. Neighboring Indonesia is proclaiming 1991 "Visit Indonesia Year" and hopes to raise tourism's share of the country's GNP from 1 to 5 percent.

Southeast Asia's regional tourism battle is a microcosm of the world's tourism market. Many of the newly industrialized economies (NIEs) are competing harder than ever against traditional Western tourist destinations for their share of the increasingly lucrative tourism market.

"The competition is more intense than ever," says Rockwell Schnabel, US deputy secretary of commerce for tourism and travel. Schnabel believes the

Julian Weiss—a frequent traveler—is a contributor to magazines in the US and Asia.

growing tourist trade pits many developing countries not only against the industrial world, but against other NIEs. Consider the contest between Malaysia and Singapore. The city-state recently spent US\$500 million on a tourist campaign to promote itself as a shopping center; Malaysia countered with a campaign emphasizing its varied and beautiful landscape. And Hong Kong battles Singapore for convention business.

As European economic integration approaches, few are certain which way tourists will fly—or sail. "There's a tremendous pent-up demand for tourism in Eastern Europe, too," Schnabel adds. It's easy to see why the global race to attract tourists is accelerating. Tourists spent over \$2.1 trillion on airfare, gifts, lodging, meals, and tours in 1989, a 25 percent increase over 1985 spending, according to the World Tourism Organization in Madrid.

For developing nations, the tourism trade is an excellent source of employment for low-skill workers and, more importantly, is the best source of hard currency. Nepal estimates that over 70 percent of its hard-currency reserves comes from non-Nepalese spenders. Tourism also gives these countries a chance to portray themselves as viable locations for business and boost income from national air carriers.

"In many cases, infrastructure costs for tourism are not that great," says Gatum Kaji, a regional director at the World Bank. "When you count on increasing numbers of tourists after your initial costs, it makes sense."

But as economic expectations rise, so

New tourism gainers

Countries	Visitors (in millions)	Percentage growth
Czechoslovakia	4.9	14
Australia	1.1	2.3
Thailand	2.4	4.7
Turkey	2.0	3.5
Hong Kong	2.2	3.8
Singapore	3.4	5.6
	2.7	4.4

Source: World Tourism Organization



do questions about tourism's long-term impact on host countries. While foreign revenue is welcomed, host governments must reconcile themselves to at least some despoiling of local culture. Some developing countries may be unprepared for their own success in the tourism industry.

"When we had people coming out to the country," says Thai economist Juanji Anjanat, "they overwhelmed villages. We welcome outsiders, but not so many so soon." In China, an embassy spokesman says that letting in outsiders could even be politically destabilizing. "If you open a window for air, some flies will come in," he explains.

Developing countries must also contend with the environmental effects of a successful tourism industry. Thriving resort cities, such as Mexico's Acapulco, often spawn rapid, unplanned growth in surrounding towns, which in turn exacerbates pollution from the resorts.

But NIEs can profit from preserving their environments rather than exploiting them as mere scenery for resort complexes. Ambassador Schnabel predicts

that "eco-travel," or nature-oriented travel, will be a growing tourism market. NIEs may be well-poised to profit from "eco-travel" as more tourists choose to spend their money visiting distant, exotic locations rather than going to the relatively familiar surroundings of Europe or North America. Indonesia believes that its tropical, unspoiled landscapes will draw visitors beyond Java, the traditional tourist mecca, helping to spread economic gains across the entire country.

Despite these new tactics, however, even celebrated destinations in NIEs are affected by natural and man-made disasters. In South Asia, civil turmoil affected some of the region's most popular destinations. Sri Lanka is slowly rebuilding its tourism industry after years of civil strife between the Sinhalese and Tamil separatists. This year visitors are returning, and tourism, which once accounted for one-third of Sri Lanka's GNP, may help the economy to regain its former luster.

India's factional violence in the Punjab put many hotels out of business. The Maldives, once hailed as a premier up-and-coming spot for British tourists, restricted privileges and instituted curfews after a short-lived coup. Nepalese efforts to raise the number of foreign visitors are in doubt in the wake of anti-government demonstrations. Tourism is Nepal's largest industry, bringing in US\$64 million in foreign currency from India and the West.

Another place where civil strife once turned away winter travelers, Jamaica, is quietly drawing back winter-weary Canadians. But Chad's on-off skirmishes with Libya continue to hinder hoped-for growth of visitors.

China saw numbers of Western tourists decline from over 40,000 a month to less than half that number after the unrest last year. To attract more, say some close to the government, a greater degree of freedom of movement for visitors will be granted.

Gauging what appeals to leisure-minded globetrotters is the key to success, according to leaders of many national tourist agencies. But whether they use eco-tourism, luxury resort complexes or the lure of bargain shopping, many developing countries will continue to compete head-to-head with the traditional tourist destinations of Europe.

TOURISM

Globetrotters by region

Number of tourists worldwide 1989 (in thousands)

Africa	15,363	Caribbean	10,016	Asia	55,048	South America	8,199	Europe	250,776	Middle East	10,493
Kenya	765	Puerto Rico	2,098	Japan	2,410	Brazil	1,758	USSR	6,100	Saudi Arabia	769
Cameroon	140	Dominican Rep.	1,147	China	10,878	Peru	300	Ireland	3,100	Turkey	3,819
Morocco	3,153	Trin.-Tobago	189	Thailand	4,738	Uruguay	1,025	Spain	36,000	Kuwait	81
Nigeria	342	Bahamas	1,534	Vietnam	7	Argentina	2,143	Switzerland	11,900	Jordan	2,410
Zimbabwe	455	Cuba	331	Hong Kong	5,645	Colombia	853	France	41,000	Israel	1,184

Source: World Tourism Organization



Mexico's coastal 'pearl' is losing its onetime luster

Acapulco's problems signal need for a new approach

By SERGIO SARMIENTO
in Acapulco, Mexico

GUADALUPE WORKS IN a paradise carved out of a barren land. The Acapulco Princess Hotel is an architectural wonder complete with odd-shaped swimming pools, water cascades and hanging gardens. Within its walls one finds every service and luxury, including tennis, golf, world-class restaurants, beaches, bars, and a discotheque. The idea is to convince guests never to leave the hotel. Few do, in fact, preferring to indulge themselves all day long in this protected, US\$300-a-day world.

Guadalupe is one of an army of chamber maids who make sure this paradise remains spotlessly clean. She works eight hours a day, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., six days a week. Time and again she cleans the same rooms and corridors. And at the end of the day the hotel provides transportation—a bus—to take her back to the real world, to the dusty, working-class colonia which dot the back of the Acapulco hills, away from the coast's prime real estate. For her toil, Guadalupe takes home \$120 a month, a sum that wouldn't buy her a night's stay at the hotel.

Since the 1950s, Acapulco has been the symbol of Mexico's efforts to develop a tourism industry. In the 1990s, it remains a symbol of the success of that effort, but also of much of what is wrong with this industry, not only in Mexico but everywhere in the developing world.

Throughout centuries of colonial rule, Acapulco was a small trading port of about 5,000 inhabitants. It owed its

relative importance to a ship that traveled between Mexico and The Philippines conducting whatever trade there was between those two outposts of the Spanish empire. When independence came in the early 19th century, Acapulco's fortunes began to decline, until rescued by tourism during the second half of the 20th century.

In the 1950s, Acapulco was still a very small town. Fewer than 10,000 people called the city home. By 1980, however, the census registered 335,000 inhabitants. And although 1990 census results are still unavailable, estimates put the city's population at 600,000.

Acapulco's growth has been chaotic. Planning focused primarily along the wide, palm-lined Avenida Costera where, to this day, the majority of tourism facilities are concentrated. Meanwhile, the hill shanty towns expanded at a rate which has defeated every effort to provide municipal services. The city's sewage is dumped mostly into the remarkably beautiful—and now polluted—bay.

One consequence of this urban deterioration has been the loss of the tourist elite who once flocked to Acapulco. Other resort areas, such as Puerto Vallarta, Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Cancun and, most recently, Huatulco, have robbed the "pearl of the Pacific" of the luster it once had. The area's new fashionable hotels, like the Princess, are often located outside the overcrowded bay area. The open-sea waves of places like the Princess's Revoladero beach might make it impossible to swim there, but at least the water and the sand remain pristine.

Mexico's tourist industry as a whole, like Acapulco's, has suffered from its own successes of late. There is no denying the activity's importance for the economy. According to the Bank of Mexico, 6.3 million foreigners traveled into

the country in 1989 (not including the 67 million short border crossings that year), spending a total of \$3 billion. Tourism is the country's third-largest foreign-currency earner, employing some 1.8 million people.

But overbuilding and poor planning have begun to take their toll. Thus, while the number of tourists worldwide has been increasing steadily over the past decade, Mexico's share of the world's tourism business has stagnated. In 1983, Mexico received 4.7 million tourists, a figure which represented 1.7 percent of the world's total. In 1989, the 6.3 million tourists were 1.6 percent of the globe's sum. Worse still is the fact that tourists arriving in Mexico seem less willing to spend money in the country. In 1984, Mexico cashed in on 1.9 percent of the world's total international tourism spending, but this figure was down to 1.4 percent in 1989.

Construction of hotel rooms has grown at a fast rate—maybe too fast. There were 231,021 registered hotel rooms in the country in 1979. Ten years later, in 1989, the total had risen to 310,893. But with this increase has come a drop in the occupancy rate. In Acapulco, for example, year-round room occupancy, which was 62.8 percent in 1979, was only 51.3 percent in 1989. Even fashionable Cancun has had a hard time keeping its rooms full. The occupancy rate, a remarkable 77.5 percent all year round in 1979—which translated into virtual full occupation in the winter season—was down to 44.6 percent in 1989.

Part of the problem is that Mexicans, in growing numbers, are eschewing their own country when they travel. Scorned at major national hotels eager to earn hard currency during most of the 1980s, many middle-class Mexicans now prefer to go abroad—backed by a more solid peso—where they feel they are better treated. In 1989, 3.9 million Mexicans vacationed out of the country, 15.3 percent more than in the previous year; they spent \$1.5 billion, a full 39.8 percent more than in 1988.

Mexico, however, has not yet reached its full tourism potential. A country like Spain each year welcomes some 36 million visitors, almost as much as its entire population of 38 million; Mexico gets less than one-tenth its number

of inhabitants.

A handful of destinations, moreover, represent an inordinate share of Mexico's tourism income. Most of the country doesn't benefit at all. Thousands of miles of beaches and hundreds of archaeological or historic sites remain either undeveloped or unpromoted among travelers who might actually enjoy the unspoiled character of most of Mexico.

Even in boom areas there are questions as to how much local inhabitants actually benefit from the tourism trade. The almost 2 million jobs directly servicing the tourism industry (not counting restaurants and other businesses which get only a portion of their income from tourists) certainly help a country where unemployment and underemployment continue to be a major economic problem. Much of the big money, however, stays with large corporations, many of them foreign-owned. In contrast to Western Europe—where small and medium-sized hotels dominate the tourism industry, and large ones cater primarily to business travelers—visitors to Mexico stay mostly in chain hotels and travel on all-inclusive tours.

Mexico, like Acapulco, seems to have reached an impasse in its tourism industry. It has already been a success story, but its image has deteriorated. While not losing ground, it isn't gaining either, and this at a time when tourism has been expanding all over the world.

The solution, however, doesn't lie in continuing to promote investment by major corporations in large hotels in already overcrowded and polluted tourism centers. A more reasonable solution would probably be found in fostering small-scale, moderately priced developments near secluded beaches and offbeat towns dotting the Mexican landscape.

This approach might entice the millions of foreign travelers presently turned off by the prospect of vacationing in extremely expensive and overcrowded areas to come to the real Mexico and experience it truly—not from behind the high walls of luxury hotels. The millions of Mexicans traveling abroad might also choose to first explore the wonders of their native land.

And beat of all, just maybe a chambermaid like Guadalupe could one day afford to stay in her own hotel.



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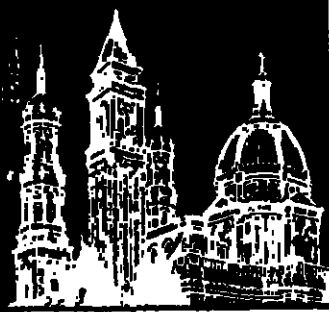
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Balancing act

BY CROCKER SNOW, JR.

Mikhail Gorbachev first heard the catcalls and shouts of protest cascading from his own citizens in Moscow in early May as he presided over the Red Square reviewing stand at the onetime high mass for communism—the annual May Day parade. He was washed in applause only a month later in Washington as he performed, summit style, for the watching world of capitalism.

As a reflection of the times, this wasn't a big surprise. Mr. Gorbachev surely is not a prophet in his own home today. He has to clean up the kitchen before the Soviet citizens will sit down to his next movable perestroika feast.

The irony of being jeered at home and cheered abroad is not unique to his time and circumstance. It is endemic in an age of international interdependence. Political leaders of major countries—or of those highly dependent on foreign connections, access and standing—are subject to a new dynamic: they have both a domestic constituency to impress and represent, and an overseas constituency to flatter.

Alas, borrowing from Rudyard Kipling, never the twain shall meet. A rising political star internationally frequently signals a falling one domestically, and vice versa. Politically, there is almost a direct cause-and-effect, seesaw equation at play. In an age of abundant international interdependence—one that nonetheless still operates mostly according to the selfish agendas of nation-states—the conflict between "thinking globally" and "acting locally" is inherent.

The last half-century provides some clear examples. Winston Churchill was lionized in Britain and the world at large for his statesmanship during and after World War II—until, at the zenith of his global popularity, his own voters threw him out. Nikita Khrushchev was a similar case in a dissimilar political system.

Anwar Sadat, before his assassination, suffered a humbling loss of home support while riding high internationally. Simultaneously, his Israeli counterpart, Menachem Begin, had the equal but opposite experience of being held in low esteem internationally while scoring repeated election victories with Israeli voters.

In more recent years, Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto and The Philippines' Corason Aquino have enjoyed high ap-

proval ratings abroad while their popularity on the home front has plummeted.

The most dramatic case, perhaps, is that of former US President Richard Nixon, whose triumphant tour through Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia in June 1974 came at a moment when he was a virtual political captive inside the White House grounds and just a month before he was forced to resign because of the Watergate scandal.

Strangely, these contradictions are heightened today by the instantaneous nature of information exchange. The fluctuating rhythms of internal and external public opinion has become a fundamental factor in foreign affairs.

Clearly, for example, Mr. Gorbachev's difficulties at home with the Baltic states, the economy and ethnic-minority issues are fully factored in by Washington policymakers. Knowledge of the Soviet leader's domestic weakness can only stiffen White House resolve not to bend more than a little on the key sticking points between the two countries. Yet it is equally clear that George Bush wants to assist Gorbachev, the known quantity in a confusing equation, in his time of travail—and that the American public feels the same way.

Within the US, the last holdouts of "Evil Empire" attitudes about the Soviet Union have either vanished or gone.

underground. Most vocal Americans now perceive their onetime adversary not as a threat but as a struggling and somewhat dispirited developing nation. Long-conditioned feelings of animosity are disappearing about as fast as the political coherence of the Soviet Union.

Americans like underdogs, and the Soviet Union is increasingly regarded this way. Indeed, Mikhail Gorbachev's new underdog image, added to his existing one as a bold reformer, may add to his popularity in the West.

Politicians speak about virtues. Educators speak about values. During the Washington summit meeting, Barbara Bush—the President's wife—proved herself an educator par excellence.

While the two summiteers were talking up the merits of the new age of enlightenment between their two nations, Mrs. Bush journeyed to Wellesley, Massachusetts with Raisa Gorbachev in tow to deliver a graduation address at the all-women's Wellesley College.

Her appearance at the commencement exercises was made especially notable by an earlier public protest, in the form of a petition, by some Wellesley undergraduates who felt Mrs. Bush had been chosen for this honor because of her husband's accomplishments and high office rather than her own.

Mrs. Bush defused the controversy brilliantly, however, by agreeing in part with the protest, and by using the platform and press attention she was presented with to score some thoughtful, down-home homilies.

Addressing the career-woman dilemma head-on, she told the women graduates: "As important as your obligations as a doctor, lawyer or business leader will be, you are a human being first, and those human connections—with spouses, with children, with friends—are the most important investments you will ever make. At the end of your life,

you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a friend, a child or a parent."

"And who knows," she concluded, speaking indirectly to the controversy that had dogged her, "somewhere out in this audience may even be someone who will one day follow in my footsteps and preside over the White House as the President's spouse. I wish him well!" ♦



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Opinion

Jordan as an investment centre

By Riad Al Khouri

JORDAN IS becoming a centre for all types of business. Today, its modern hotels, sophisticated facilities, investment incentives, abundance of skilled workers and, above all, a solid physical infrastructure, make the country an important centre for business, trade, manufacturing, conferences, technology transfer, research and learning. Jordan continues to attract business interests from around the world. Joint ventures are particularly welcome, and the country's dynamic private sector has long been in partnership with multinationals. Foreign companies looking for a regional base for their Arab and Middle East operations have found Jordan to be one of the best locations in the area.

At the same time, wages are steady in terms of the local currency. Insofar as this has depreciated, the country probably has the Middle East's best supply of indigenous labour. In turn, this is a very important factor in facilitating the transfer and absorption of technology. Other countries in the region rely heavily on foreign labour for their high tech industries, and this has created a problem. In the longer term, the mix of local R and D, foreign technologies and indigenous skills is a sure way to lower costs and enhance production.

The availability of other services and amenities in Jordan is also a distinct advantage for any potential foreign investor.

From the most sophisticated business need to simply domestic requirements, Jordan's rich supply of professionals, artisans and other workers at all levels is always ready to deliver better quality at lower cost than elsewhere in the Middle East. Capital and other costs in Jordan are also very low. Office or plant rent, the cost of land and buildings, and practically any other such expenditure will be far less expensive than in other states in the region.

Apart from these advantages, Jordan enjoys a very high level of education, with many thousands of university graduates, several dynamic research organisations and academic institutions, and a student population of over one out of three people in the country (among the highest levels

in the world).

Add to these advantages the free repatriation of profits, low wages by international standards and the preferential treatment given to Jordan's exports by the United States and European Community countries, and you have a recipe for business success with Jordan as your base, particularly for the states of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC).



lary for the states of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC).

The ACC was formed in 1989 to work for economic integration among its four members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen. Just as Jordan lies at the centre of the Eastern Hemisphere, the Arab World and the Middle East, the country is also at the heart of the ACC. The Council's four states enjoy a large proportion of Middle East resources and include a large and rapidly growing population. The ACC, with its headquarters in Amman, is potentially one of the richest markets in the world with an educated workforce, skilled entrepreneurs, vast natural resources and a

unique, strategic position.

The member states of the ACC have a combined population and a total gross domestic product larger than those of other economic groupings in the Arab world. The latest in communications equipment as well as land, sea and air transport link Jordan with the three other ACC coun-

tries (as well as the rest of the Middle East and the Arab world). Just as important, Jordan's culture, civilisation and language form the common denominator for the ACC and other Arab countries.

OPEC member Iraq borders Jordan on the northeast. Iraqi oil reserves may yet prove to be the largest in the world, and the country's agriculture is full of a potential which could make it truly important by international standards. With a population of close to 18 million and a balanced, healthy economy, Iraq is perhaps the single most important consumer and producer in the Arab world. The country's shift to higher technologies has accelerated

over the past few years, and its demand for new products and techniques make it an extremely attractive market for companies sensitive to local and regional needs. Jordan's ACC neighbour to the southwest is Egypt, the largest country in the Arab world. With a population of 55 million, Egypt's economy is important by international standards and offers a vast market for all types of higher technologies. Its rapidly developing agricultural, mineral, tourism, industry and transport sectors are all seeking new business and production techniques.

Yemen lies south of Jordan and is one of the fastest growing economies in the region. With a population moving rapidly to modernise, Yemen is a country with a huge demand for all technologies appropriate to an economy simultaneously building up an infrastructure, mechanising, and raising living standards. The country's oil and agricultural resources guarantee it a prosperous future, and Yemeni expansion will accelerate as unification bears fruit.

Jordan is ideal to service these and other countries in the Middle East and the Arab world. As a transport hub, management base, assembly point or manufacturing centre, the country's location, its people's skills and a sound infrastructure make it the perfect gateway to the ACC and the entire Middle East.

Does this sound too good to be true? Maybe, if you consider that there is still a lot to be done in Jordan, particularly by the public sector, which is now being called upon by most economists and experts to switch from its regulatory role to new, facilitating one.

"Jordan's economic future is in the hands of the private sector. However, if the public sector doesn't give the economy the proper push, things are not going to move. The motivation to invest could best come from the government relaxing its rules and regulations" according to Tom Shilen Jr., accounting and auditing sector director of the Private Services Development Project in Amman. The public sector has been called upon to help potential investors; but this requires policy stability without which investors do not come forward.

The risk of nuclear war at sea

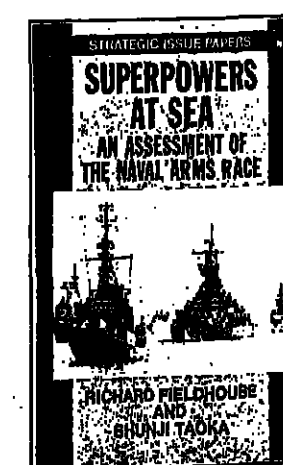
The nuclear arms issue has been moved from the land to the sea, where nuclear proliferation seems to be going unchecked. It is at sea that the greatest risk of a nuclear war lies.

By Geetha Govin
Special to The Star

THE 1990s commenced with momentous changes such as glasnost and perestroika, the fall of the dictatorial regimes in Eastern Europe, the spectacular breakdown of the Berlin Wall and much more earnest discussion on reducing the number of land-based superpower nuclear weapons. These events have greatly contributed to the lessening of tension in East-West relations.

Such profound changes would seem to make a quantum leap not only in the efforts made in past decades, but also in the thinking of politicians at large — not just Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush. So, is optimism about a world secure from a nuclear conflict justified? Apparently not.

In their book entitled "Superpowers at Sea," published by Oxford University Press for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Richard



Fieldhouse and Shunji Taoka explore the naval role of the superpowers, their attitudes and capabilities regarding the possible use of nuclear forces attached to the naval forces.

The topic has been little under- stood in the past, even though the navies of the five major nuclear states, the United States, the USSR, Britain, France and China alone hold a third of the world's nuclear weapons.

The debate on strategic and tactical nuclear weapons based on land is complex enough, but the issue of sea-based system is just as convoluted. The authors clear up this confusion, explaining not only the fundamental facts of the need for nuclear naval forces but also the strategic dilemma they pose.

The SALT talks may have put limitations on the number of ballistic missile submarines as well as missile launchers, but the issue of warheads and the pace of technology has only served to circumvent

any conclusive or meaningful progress on nuclear arms control and reductions of naval forces.

Besides, the very nature of the medium in which the navies operate has given them distinct advantages over their land-based counterparts — especially since they operate in international waters, and therefore have no real restraints placed upon them.

Although the USSR has a highly nuclearised navy in terms of number of submarines, frigates and cruisers, the US has a higher number of naval nuclear warheads. The USA has 9,277 warheads compared to 6,391 Soviet ones. The US has also achieved remarkable technological breakthroughs in anti-submarine weapons, sonars, sonobuoys and anti-surface vessel weapons. All of these endow the US with nuclear superiority in the naval sphere.

Fieldhouse and Taoka warn against the acceptance of such a situation as, they argue, it would favour power at the expense of justice and increase unpredictability and risk of conflict.

The authors also point out that although the Soviet forces have the advantage of having a simple national command structure, their figures are somewhat distorted and, for reasons best known to themselves, the USSR and its allies do not disclose the true capacity, value or content of their forces. Therefore, any US optimism based

on the superiority of their naval forces must be measured and the proliferation of nuclear weapons at sea should be realistically and drastically cut.

The prospects for any formal superpower naval arms control are rather slim, despite the fact that the Soviets have increased their proposals for naval arms control and Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) since 1986, as exemplified by the Stockholm Conference and various speeches given by Gorbachev.

Fieldhouse and Taoka point out that changes in the superpower navies are likely in the near future, as much due to economic difficulties (especially for the Soviet Union) as manpower shortages and decreasing Soviet shipbuilding rates. These factors should no doubt push the superpowers into reassessing and planning out the costs of pursuing nuclear proliferation at sea.

The dilemma of reducing nuclear arms has by no means been resolved, for the simple reason that the theatre of conflict has been shifted onto the "neutral" seas, which are not confined by defined frontiers and is most of the land. This obviously increases the risk of nuclear war.

Confronting the naval arms race issue, therefore, puts the nuclear issue as a whole into perspective. It is there that confidence building measures are needed most.

THE STAR 11

19 JULY 1990

Levy: The US will not force us to deal with the PLO

Question: How will you — one who opposed the Israeli peace initiative when it came out in May 1989 and was later a "constraints" minister — now go about improving ties with the US?

Answer: On the cardinal issues, things don't look different. I can be judged on my past positions, and they have proven to be true, because I said that we must be credible in our dealings with the US, like with all countries.

We have to be able to stand by what we propose. Major corrections were subsequently inserted into our Israeli peace initiative. We should have said no to the changes from the beginning, and not think they would be corrected over time. I said there would be a crisis if we didn't react in time, and I was right. I think it is very important that we create the necessary understanding on something that relates to our very existence.

Understanding and agreement with the US can only be based on trust between the two governments. An open dialogue between us can restore mutual credibility. Israel must explain the dangers it faces and speak out about anything that deviates from government decisions and initiatives. There have been problems, which we must analyze. During the peace process, some things were done behind Israel's back, and there was a lot we did not get in writing. For example, we did not receive the Egyptian proposals, which were co-ordinated with the PLO. Therefore, Israel was in a position of guessing and assessing.

I think we are already seeing a change in the atmosphere towards Israel. Published state-

Israel's new Foreign Minister David Levy is a radical among radicals. He fought against the Likud Party head and Prime Minister of Israel Yitzhak Shamir's so-called peace initiative when it was announced more than a year ago. Now he is the man responsible for saving that initiative and his country's relations with the United States. He was interviewed recently by The Jerusalem Post. Following is the full text of the interview.



"...three things the US have told us, are opposition to a Palestinian state, not forcing the PLO on us, and that the dialogue (with Palestinians) will be devoted to elections," Levy.

ments by President Bush — opposing those who think creating a crisis (with Israel) will solve problems — were warmly received here.

Q: How do you solve the problem of deportees and East Jerusalemites participating in a Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel? Would you accept the inclusion of a resident of the territories who has an office in East Jerusalem?

A: These are tough problems that from our standpoint have serious implications we must clarify with the US, so that there are no bizarre or differing interpretations. Israel is not inventing excuses and arguments to shirk the process... but some people and organisations are saying that Je-

rusalem is part of any negotiation, and that therefore Arab representatives are necessary. They want to decide on this now. Israel doesn't. There is no way we would agree that Jerusalem is part of any autonomy plan. This contravenes the US commitment at Camp David, which says (the issue of Jerusalem) will be discussed only at the end (in final status talks). We say to the US: Why discuss it now — just because the PLO wants to? If you bring this up at the start of the dialogue, (the peace process) will break down.

Q: But the US says it wishes to renew the dialogue with the PLO, once it meets American conditions.

A: The PLO has betrayed the

US's trust. This was proved (by the May 30 failed seaborne attack off Israel's beaches, perpetrated by Abul Abbas). Had it succeeded, it would have been disastrous for the US as well, since a dialogue which they hoped would advance towards peace could have led to catastrophe.

Q: Who would Israel have punished for the attack, Libya? A: I'm not saying that. But it would have known who to punish.

Q: Is this government committed to an Israel-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo?

A: It wants to advance the initiative by getting rid of potential mines along the way — this isn't the time to elaborate on how it will do this. The venue is not significant. It doesn't necessarily have to take place in Cairo. (Egyptian President Hosni) Mubarak said this himself. It could be in Jerusalem, or half and half. The main thing is the substance of the talks.

Q: Baker recently said that, for 23 years, Israel has not succeeded in bringing the Palestinians to negotiate without PLO approval.

A: Look, the Americans tell us: You will not have any surprises sprung on you — you won't have to sit down with the PLO. They tell us this both verbally and in writing. We just received this assurance anew: the US will not force us to deal with the PLO. In addition, the US opposes a Palestinian state, and talks will go according to a process. The Israeli-Palestinian dialogue will deal with negotiations about elections, then there will be talks about an interim settlement, and then final status negotiations. We are not operating in a vacuum, as this (these assurances) all has a basis. The Americans tell us that they do not support a Palestinian state... I take this statement very seriously. So how do we reach full and agreed upon understandings, so that the talks don't, heaven forbid, break down, and Israel will again be blamed? If these three things are hermetically sealed, then I think we will reach (agreement).

Q: When you speak of renewed assurances, does this mean that they were included in Bush's letter to Shamir?

A: I am not saying whether they were contained in the letter. But the three things the US have told us, are opposition to a Palestinian state, not forcing the PLO on us, and that the dialogue (with Palestinians) will be devoted to elections.

Q: Do you reject territorial withdrawal totally, out of security concerns?

A: I don't want to talk about Israel's position, as I do not want Israel's position on the final status to foil the initiative. But (my personal view) is that a Palestinian state is a danger to both Israel and Jordan. A Palestinian state, over time, would be a source of threatening instability. Instead of bringing peace, it would bring war.

Q: Can the Soviets be partners in the peace process? Soviet officials hint that they will restore diplomatic relations with Israel, if they are part of the peace process.

A: To have diplomatic ties with Israel is natural. All of Eastern Europe is renewing ties with Israel. The Soviets should be the model for renewing ties, but it still refuses. There are a lot of things going on there, which I believe are miraculous. We want to talk with the Soviets. We are open to talking to them, but not as a substitute for the US. The Soviets are still supplying huge amounts of weaponry to (Israel's enemies), and support a Palestinian state. Do the Soviets wish, as they did in the past, to dictate to us (a peace settlement)? I favour (bilateral) face-to-face negotiations with Arab states involved. If the superpowers want to help us, we will be very happy. If they want to impose something that effects our very existence, they will achieve the opposite results, and there will not be peace.

I say to the Soviets: Renew ties, be more balanced in your approach, understand Israel's dangers, and let us talk when there is an open channel of dialogue between the two countries.

Q: The Europeans say they will not upgrade Israel's free-trade agreements Israel needs to fully enjoy European economic integration in 1992 because of the lack of progress in the peace process.

A: We are dealing with Europe. We have set up a special staff to develop an integrated programme and give the issue special attention. While our relations with the US is the most important issue, we cannot look at our work in Europe as being routine. There has to be more emphasis on explaining our position, and developing ties with states and other elements in Europe.

Q: As housing minister, you funded Jewish settlement in St. John's Hospice in Jerusalem's Christian Quarter. Was that a mistake?

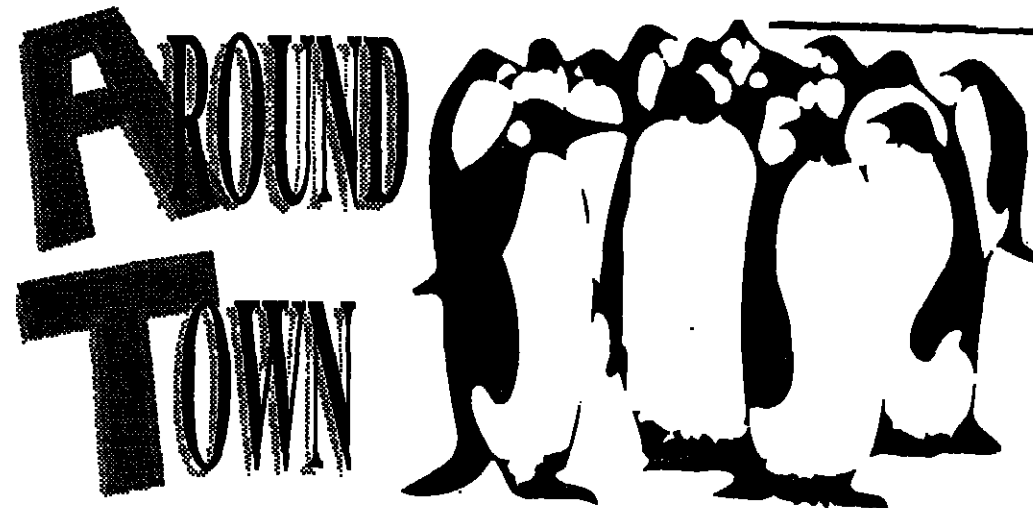
A: This whole thing was blown way out of proportion. After political statements and work of the PLO, it sounded as if Israel had taken over a church. People did not know the facts. Now they know. The place was never a holy site or a place of prayer. It was not seized (by the settlers). It was not invaded. There was a transaction.

Q: African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela has reportedly indicated that he would visit Israel, if officially invited. Are you going to extend that invitation?

A: I ask myself as a Jew and as an Israeli... On the one hand, Mandela has struggle and is a symbol. The world has gone out of its way (to honour him). At the same time, Mandela praises (PLO chief Yasser) Arafat and (Libyan leader Muammar) Gaddafi. How should I deal with this? I am divided about this, truly divided.

Q: How are your working relations with Prime Minister Shamir?

A: Proper and correct. We hold meetings, discuss and resolve issues. I would say they are better than yesterday, and will be better tomorrow. It is natural that it will be so.



Ballet celebrates its golden anniversary in Jerash

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

THE ATHERBIAN State Ballet celebrated its golden anniversary among the archaeological remains of Jerash's South Theatre Sunday evening as part of this year's cultural festival. To suit the occasion the group prepared a special programme for this event.

The performance featured stories taken from "One Thousand and One Nights", "The Seven Princesses", and "Don Quixote", sprinkled with short folkloric pieces including a Spanish interpretation and a Caraccian dance. The opening dance, starring the whole group, had a modern touch with billowy earth-coloured trousers and tops, replacing the traditional tutus and chiffon costumes. The choreography was reminiscent of modern dance, with the hands stretched out and the palms lifting upwards — a sharp contrast to the delicate, palm concealing gestures of classical ballet. The dancers heavy movements also stressed motion even more.

A contrasting classical piece followed with a handsome prince and his white-tutu-clad female partner moving in harmony to dramatic background music. The ballerina's extended, fluttering arms and her prince's quick, high leaps expressed the emotions of a love scene. Next came the seven princesses with their sequined gowns

covered with soft, white transparent material. The ballerinas moved on and off the stage to confuse and tease the male dancer who was pursuing them. An oriental impression was created by the costumes, the accompanying music and the natural Roman background. Blue and pink lights reflecting off the yellowish rocks of Jerash created an exotic and magical impression.

A sense of death and melancholy were tangible through the languid and wilting male posture held up from behind by a red clad ballerina during an Indian style duet. The dancers performed in harmony alternating between quick and small paced steps, building up to a sense of urgency with vigorous running and leaping. Sadness was expressed in the kneeling, self-embracing position taken up by the hero cradled in his female partner's arms.

The Atherbian State Ballet concluded its one hour and a half

performance with a lively finale of Caraccian dancing. The costumes helped create a folkloric atmosphere with the males clad in black leather boots and jet black coats embroidered with gold and the females' long raven black locks accented with mauve head covers. The group was given a certificate of merit at the end of the performance as a token of appreciation and thanks from Jordan.

● An American television crew from Channel One staying at the Plaza Hotel in Amman, is filming an educational documentary on teenagers in Jordan. The team include Gail Jansen, supervising producer of features, Marke Andrew Carter, journalist, Terance John Blank, camera crew, Robert Case, film video director of photography.

The documentary will cover most areas of Jordan, so as to

Continued on page 14

Scrapbook

A Bird's eyeview

A FRIEND of mine flew into town a few days ago and we got together for lunch. He is an economic professor at a world-famous university, so, over a leisurely meal, we had a very interesting conversation about the economic state of affairs here in Jordan. I hope you find it as enriching as I did.

"You know, Magda, I'm really worried about the Jordanian economy," my professor friend said.

"I would have agreed with you a year ago, but you know things have since improved tremendously," I replied. "We almost have no problems at all now."

"Look, you have to consider the facts, right?" the professor insisted. "The JD is still too weak, your Central Bank is working on increasing its reserves, exports are nowhere near balance imports, prices are going up, but income isn't. And if that's not enough, the private sector is not too enthusiastic about starting new ventures because it is being taxed to the hilt. That basically leaves you in a catch 22 situation."

"To revitalise the economy, the government has to create work by starting new projects, the only way it can pay for these projects is by borrowing more money, that is if they can find new lenders in the first place. The new debts will result in a massive decrease in the Central Bank reserves as it makes the payments, resulting in turn in a new record low for the JD. And, the recession comes back quicker than you can finish your dessert. Now, if your neighbours do not send you the proverbial 'Care Package,' I'm afraid you will starve to death, my dear."

"Oh, no! you got it all wrong," I argued. "With all due respect to your qualifications and experience, I don't think that you see the situation from the right angle."

"Let me explain, please. What we did over the past few years is obvious. Just look around you. We took most of our foreign currency, sent it out of the country, and in exchange got things we needed like cars, building materials and consumer goods like TVs, videos, furniture, food, and... oh, yes, a few luxury items, I admit. But, as you know, everyone deserves a little luxury every now and then, not to mention a couple of vacations a year to some exotic resort."

"So you see, we turned most of our money into assets and investments. Just look at all the buildings and see how much has been invested in them. Some of the houses are so big and extravagant, that they are often advertised for rent or sale as 'palaces.' And, don't forget all those great cars you see adorning our streets. It makes me feel good to know that we have an abundance of Mercedes 500's, new 700 Series BMW's, and other type of expensive machines on four wheels. It's a good sign of prosperity. When you have it, you might as well flaunt it!"

"I see. I hadn't realised the situation was quite like this," explained the professor. "In this case you really have nothing to worry about. The solution is quite simple and well within your reach."

"All you do is liquidate your assets by selling them to foreign buyers who would be prepared to pay hard currency for them. Then, you lease them back with an option to buy once you have saved enough. You keep buying them and selling them, leasing them and renting them out, buying them back, renting them out again, and leasing them back so you can use them, and this way the money keeps revolving. You will always have a positive cash flow, but don't try to calculate the Net Worth, because you will be in shock for a month and a lot of people will become angry. Some will even accuse you of spreading propaganda that is potentially harmful to the national spirit."

"Believe me," it works the professor assured me. "In my country we have an airline that does that all the time. They buy new planes, sell them before they are even delivered, lease them once they are, buy them back and resell them and lease them from their new owners, and while on lease, they rent them out."

"They do so much of this that nobody knows where the planes are or who they belong to anymore. Not even the people who own them know! And, with a little creative accounting they always proudly announce healthy profits and everyone is happy. It's hard to believe, but it works!"

"You see my friend, I told you we had nothing to worry about," I said. "Hey! I just thought, why not you and I form a leasing company, and with some clever advertising and the help of insider trading, which shouldn't be very difficult to manage, we could become multimillionaires in no time at all. You can buy yourself a ranch somewhere and retire and I can pursue a career in politics. Now, how's that for a vivid imagination, huh?"

Magda Hamzeh

PLO officials 'prepared to handle Abul Abbas,' New York Times report

NEW YORK — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders say they are willing to "discipline" the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), led by Mohammed Abbas, if the United States agrees to resume and upgrade its dialogue with the PLO. The New York Times reported last week.

In a series of interviews with The Times in Tunis, PLO officials said they would be prepared to "handle Abul Abbas," who was responsible for 30 May seaborne operation against Israel, but not until the US administration committed itself to enlarging the scale and scope of the dialogue.

"To be very frank, we can sell Abul Abbas," said a senior PLO official who was not identified by The Times. He, and others interviewed, used expletives when referring to the PLF leader. The PLO officials were virtually unanimous in saying Abbas' punishment and expulsion from the organisation would not be a problem in and of itself.

"We want a real dialogue, not a mailbox to send questions and wait for answers," said Yasser Arafat, the chief PLO delegate to the talks in Tunisia with US Ambassador Robert H. Poole-Weaver, Jr.

"It is a process that allows us to go to Washington, to see people in the Congress, in the media and help us clarify our positions

to the American people," Arafat said. "We have to have a dialogue with the American people."

In an interview with the Jerusalem Post, however, US State Department Deputy spokesman, Richard Boucher refused to give a direct comment on whether there were any US-PLO contacts being conducted through third parties.

"I'm not going to get into any discussions we have," said Boucher. "We think that the most effective way for the PLO to communicate is through its actions."

"The PLO is aware of the requirements for the resumption of the dialogue, which were spelled out by the president clearly in his 20 June statement," he told the Post.

The Bush administration has demanded that the Abbas group be punished or expelled from the PLO as a condition for talks to resume.

The PLO officials interviewed agreed that close ties with the administration were crucial, since the United States had been instrumental to the peace process.

Palestinian leaders told The Times they were racing through meetings to arrive at a "proper formula" to satisfy the US demands and their own need to control Palestinian extremist groups such as the PLF.

"Every time we make some progress," said a PLO official,

Abbas "does something that sets us back a year and we have to start all over again."

The Jerusalem Post quoted PLO UN observer Zehdi Terzi as saying that he could neither confirm nor deny the reports that the organisation had set conditions for disciplining the PLF, as he had no direct information about the matter.

"I have not received any clear instructions" on the issue, the paper quoted him as saying.

Officials in Tunis said they were planning to introduce a proposal, at the Central Committee meeting next month in Baghdad, for an agreement by all members that would ban all military action against Israeli civilians, inside or outside Israel.

Terzi, however, downplayed the significance of such an accord. "This is a decision already taken, that no civilian targets should be attacked," he said.

"It was taken some time ago," and repeated when PLO leader Yasser Arafat assured the Americans that the PLO leadership is opposed to any attack on civilians," he added.

"We should name those groups for whose actions we are responsible and those for whom we cannot answer," said Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, the PLO second-in-command. "If any of our groups break the agreement, they will be disciplined," he told The Times.

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ADVENTURING Picking an outfitter

by John Rasmus

SEVERAL YEARS ago, a writer friend of mine went to great lengths to get himself to the remote Canadian arctic territory of Ellesmere Island. He tagged along with a crew of research scientists, set up camp on the island's desolate shores, and settled in for a few lonely weeks of observation and note-taking. This, he thought, was about as far away from civilization as you can go. Within a few days, though, he saw visitors approaching on the horizon in small boats.

"It was a group of sea kayakers on an adventure tour from Seattle," he said. "A couple of air connections from the Northwest, and they had arrived in a place that they would have had to mount an expedition to reach 20 years ago." I don't recall whether the group appeared to be enjoying themselves, but I hope so. The ends of the earth are still a long way to go to find out that you've chosen a lousy trip.

How do you pick the right one? The choices of adventure travel companies and destinations are legion, and, frankly, your travel agent may need a little coaching. He or she might start with a trade publication called Specialty Travel Index, or the Active Traveler directory in Outside magazine.

First, you'll need to decide whether you have the time, money and temperament for a real adventure, something groundbreaking and memorable, a la El-

lesmere Island. Would you mind being stuck for a week, for instance, in a yak-herder's hut in Mongolia, hearing yak-herder stories and drinking yak-butter tea if the winter snows come unexpectedly early? If not, don't sign up for an "exploratory" adventure. Bridges go out. Revolvers flare up. Borders close. Permits don't materialize. Your itinerary may take you among people who have never seen foreigners before, let alone catered to them.

What most people really want is a well-planned "adventure experience" — a raft trip down the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, for example. On such a trip you can really get away from it all, but you also have every reason to expect good food, plenty of interesting things to see and do, and every scenic highlight and scary whitewater rapid you've been promised. The trip has been run a million times, and the kinks have been ironed out by all the major outfitters.

Although many companies' brochures claim that they run trips all over the world — treks, safaris, jungle explorations and wildlife trips — very few actually pull it off well in practice. We live in a specialized world, and it's fairly easy to tell which trips a given company really specializes in by what it emphasizes in the sales brochures.

Adventure travel companies often specialize in market segments as well as trips per se. Some companies are known for having the most knowledgeable and experienced guides, or for opening up new, untrammeled

destinations, or for providing an extra level of luxury in the field. Companies such as Butterfield and Robinson in bike travel, Abercrombie & Kent in African safaris and Mountain Travel in trekking are known for an extra level of service or expertise. Their prices reflect it, of course, so their clients tend to be more affluent, more middle-aged and perhaps a bit more sedate. Companies that offer fewer frills or more roughing it — a Sobek or an Overseas Adventure Travel — generally attract a younger, more free-wheeling crowd.

One thing the brochures generally don't discuss thoroughly enough is whether the company may subcontract your trip to a smaller, local travel company that specializes in a particular trip you want to take. It's not necessarily unethical to subcontract a trip — the booking company is obliged to deliver the goods as promised — but you could probably book the subcontracted services yourself for somewhat less, sometimes 10 per cent to 30 per cent less. You can often find those companies in the publications mentioned above.

Whoever finally runs your trip, the most important consideration is expertise: How long has the company been running the trip in question? Does it have full-time representatives in the host country, or are the trip leaders just flying in with you? The more plugged-in to the local scene the company is, the better.

Many companies don't subcontract at all; however, they may cancel your trip if they don't sign up enough clients. You don't want to spend six months planning the trip of a lifetime only to have it canceled with three weeks to go. So make sure you discuss this with the company



A rafting trip down the Grand Canyon: Great scenery and scary whitewater rapids, with all the kinks ironed out

and have selected a popular, surefire alternate trip in case your more chancy trip is canceled.

When perusing the literature you receive, keep in mind that even underfinanced companies can print up nice brochures, take your deposit and then get caught in a financial squeeze if something goes wrong in the field: A bus turns over or the local guides skip out with the grocery money. The smaller and newer the company is, the more chance of this there is.

For the most part, the adventure travel industry is run by people who love the adventure part of it more than the business side. Their first love is Africa or whitewater rafting or the Amazon jungle; the other stuff comes second. That's both a strength and a liability. On the one hand, you generally can count on get-

ting a straight assessment of what a given company is best at doing. That's what its people like, and they don't want to be doing something else. On the other hand, they're sometimes a little lax on the mechanics — sending you the proper checklists and itineraries, meeting your plane on time, etc. So don't hesitate to prod gently for all the specifics and don't expect things to run like a Swiss watch, especially on a kayaking trip to Ellesmere Island.

Sources

— Specialty Travel Index, 305 San Anselmo, Mo. 217, San Anselmo, Calif. 94960; \$8 per year.
— Outside magazine, P.O. Box 54729, Boulder, Colo. 80322; \$18 per year.



Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental held a cocktail reception last week on the occasion of Secretary's Day. More than 500 invitees attended the reception which was held at the swimming pool area. This annual event has been held by the hotel for the past nine years to honour Jordanian secretaries. Mr. Majeed Khalil, the general manager of the hotel, gave a speech in which he welcomed the guests and thanked them for their continuous support.

Hassan Alaedddine, treasurer. Dr. Midhat Abdulmale (MO) Mr. Riad Al Khouri and Mr. Ghazi Zreikat were elected members of the committee. Mr. Iyad Barghouti and Mr. Ossam Barghouti are reserve members.

Agenda

Films

The American Center presents "The African Queen", starring Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn, Thursday 19 July and Sunday 22 July at 7 pm.

Trips

The Friends of Archaeology will organise a trip to Abilal Qweilbeh, on Friday 20 July.

WHAT'S AT THE PLAZA
Friday - Family Luncheon Buffet at the Coffee Shop.
Saturday - Prime Rib of Beef Night - Coffee Shop.
Sunday - Jumbo Shrimp Night at Andalusia.
Monday - Spanish Paella Night at Coffee Shop.
Tuesday - Continental Buffet Selection - Continental Dishes (Hot+Cold).
Wednesday - Indian Night at Coffee Shop.
Thursday - Sea Food Night at Andalusia.

19 JULY 1990

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Programmes on Jordanian Television from 21 July to 27 July

ENGLISH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

8:30 - Joint Accounts.
9:00 - Encounter: Hosted by Rami Khouri.
9:30 - Classical Music.
10:20 - News in English.
10:20 - Feature Film (Key Largo).

SUNDAY

8:30 - Hey Dad: The father complains about the ever-rising prices and is worried about the meager funds. So he introduces some belt-tightening procedures, but "Grandma" blocks his thrift policy.
9:10 - Nuclear Age.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Hunter (Brotherly Love): A young gangster kills another member of the gang, unintentionally. His older brother offers help to get him out of trouble. But it's too late...

MONDAY

8:30 - Perfect Strangers (The Selling of Mypos): A big real estate company asks Baiki to close a real estate bargain in exchange for a big commission and Larry is involved too. Although there is a lot of money involved, the boys would not be fooled.
9:10 - Murder, She Wrote: Count Jeffrey was found dead, poisoned in his palace. No doubt his fortunes was the motivation. Jessica's cousin's Emma was there and she conducts the astute investigation.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Action in North Atlantic: The Allied 74 military escort convoys ships are on their way. In task is to guard American supplies bound for Europe. Steven's ship is among them. German submarines attack and Steven is injured.

TUESDAY

8:30 - Golden Girls (The Aud): Dorothy and her ex-husband, over the state \$5000 tax money. Naturally they don't have this kind of money, but somehow they manage to raise it.
9:10 - Heart of the High Country.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Paradise (Founder's): The bank manager Miss Larson kills a young gunman who was trying to rob her bank. The dead gunman's family seeks revenge, but Ethan comes to the rescue.
10:30 - Police Squad (Rendezvous at Big): Some gangsters are in the business of receiving money in exchange for

protection, of course under the threat of using force. The police finally uncover their network.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 - You Rang M'Lord: At Cici's birthday party, the servant makes a mistake and confusion and misunderstanding ensue, so everyone in the house co-operates to avert a scandal.
9:10 - Doc Welcome to Fat Camp.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Summers Lease (Battlefield): It becomes clear to "Molly" that Buck has made sure that she rented his house, and discovers that "Rosy" is involved too. Molly does a lot to know more about Buck and in the process stumbles across more surprises.

THURSDAY

8:30 - A Different World: Dwayne and his friends are members of the cleanliness squad, but Dwayne does not like its rigorous rules and harsh discipline and so tries to break away.
9:10 - Dolphin Cove.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Movie of the Week (Blind Witness): Maggie, the blind housewife, whose husband was killed at the hands of house-robbers, is determined to find the killers even without help from the police.

FRIDAY

8:30 - Did's Comedy Show (Botting the Pace).
9:10 - Midnight Caller: Jack's brother is in trouble. He is accused of murder and theft of gold. Jack helps clear his brother and manages to find the real criminal.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Anything More would be Greedy (Realising Assets): The ministry of defence has asked Peter to produce his scientific invention commercially, but there are problems. Peter starts negotiating with the Swiss and US businessmen over the marketing of his invention.

FRENCH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

5:45 - Champs Elyses: A variety programme featuring Michel Berger.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - La Vie du Patois: A documentary programme about

different kinds of fish.

SUNDAY

5:55 - Denver le Dernier Dinosaure: A cartoon series for children.
6:20 - Le Fil de la Communication: A documentary about communication.
6:35 Ca c'est du Cinema: A documentary about the movies of Charlie Chaplin and the basics of filming.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Varieties

MONDAY

6:00 - La Homme et la Nature: A documentary about nature and mankind.
7:00 - News in French.
7:00 - The Weekly Sport Magazine.

TUESDAY

5:45 - L'Agonie des Forêts en Allemagne: A documentary programme about the forests in Germany and how they are affected by industry.
6:20 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: A game show.
6:40 - Tel Per tel Fil: A drama series.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: A local programme.

WEDNESDAY

5:50 - L'ami Maupassant
L'Enfant: A drama series
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Varieties.

THURSDAY

5:45 - Molleriesimo: A cartoon series for children.
6:20 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: A game show.
6:30 - La Chance aux Chansons: A variety programme about classical French songs.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Sirocco (Le Magazine de l'Evasion): A documentary about the Polo in Afghanistan.

FRIDAY

5:30 - La Taupier: A French film
7:00 - The News in French
7:15 - La Revolution de L'Intelligence (Alexandre la Grande): A documentary programme.

Videos in Jordan

1 - Back to the Future III: Michael J. Fox.
2 - Another Woman: Mia Farrow, Gene Hackman.
3 - Crazy People: Dudley Moore, Daryl Hannah.
4 - Joe Versus the Volcano: Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan.
5 - The Delinquents: Kylie Minogue, Charlie Schlatter.
6 - Bad Influence: Rob Lowe.

ROGER EBERT: ON MOVIES "Days of Thunder"

Rating: ***

"Days of Thunder" is an entertaining example of what we might as well call the Tom Cruise Picture, since it assembles most of the same elements that worked in "Top Gun," "The Color of Money" and "Cocktail" and runs them through the formula once again. Parts of the plot are beginning to wear out their welcome, but the key ingredients are still effective. They include:

1. The Cruise character, invariably a young and naive but naturally talented kid who could be the best, if ever he could tame his rambunctious spirit.
2. The Mentor, an older man who has done it himself, been there before and knows talent when he sees it. He has faith in the kid even when the kid screws up because his free spirit has gotten the best of him.
3. The Superior Woman, usually older, taller and more mature than the Cruise character. She functions as a mentor for his spirit, while the male mentor supervises his craft.
4. The Craft, which the gifted young man must master.
5. The Arena, in which the young man is tested.
6. The Arcana, consisting of the specialised knowledge and lore that the movie illustrates in detail and the audience gets to learn.
7. The Trail, a journey to the principal places where the masters of the craft test one another.
8. The Proto-Enemy, the bad guy in the opening reels of the movie who provides the hero with a practice opponent. At first, the Cruise character and the Proto-Enemy dislike each other, but eventually through a baptism of fire they learn to love one another.
9. The Eventual Enemy, a real bad guy who turns up in the closing reels to provide the hero with a test of his skill, his learning ability, his love, his craft and his knowledge of the Arena and the Arcana.

The archetypal Tom Cruise Movie is "Top Gun," in which the young fighter pilot, a natural, was tutored by a once-great pilot and emotionally nurtured by an older female flight instructor before testing his wings against the hot dogs of his unit, in preparation for a final showdown against the Enemy. In "The Color of Money," the young pool player, a natural, was tutored by a once-great pool hustler and emotionally nurtured by an older female who had been around the block a few times, in preparation for a two-part showdown with his hated opponent on the professional pool circuit, and the Mentor himself. In "Cocktail," the young bartender, a natural, was tutored by an older bartender, before eventually meeting first an older female who taught him a thing or two, and then a younger but still more mature female who taught him how to forget them.

In "Days of Thunder," these elements are present in an entertainment of great skill but predictable construction. The Craft is stock-car racing. The Mentor is a veteran racing-team leader played by Robert Duvall. The Superior Woman is a physician (Nicole Kidman) who is attracted to the raw energy of the hero but forces him to grow up by laying down the line of responsible behavior.

The Arena is the auto-racing track, and the Arcana includes such lore as "slipstreaming," RPMs, tire temperature, and whether to pass on the outside or the inside.

The Proto-Enemy is a driver named Rowdy (Michael Rooker), who challenges the hero to racing duels including one that winds them both up in the hospital. The Eventual Enemy (Cary Elwes) is a driver named Wheeler who would like to run the hero into the wall and kill him. And the Trail, of course, is the Southern stock-car circuit, ending in the holy city of Daytona.

"Days of Thunder" was directed by Tony Scott, the same man who started his whole cycle by directing "Top Gun" and shows the same mastery of the photography of fast machines. The movie's handicap is that auto racing is visually a boring sport unless you are standing close to the cars or they are crashing into each other.

The rest of the film consists of long shots of anonymous cars dashing confusingly around the track, medium shots of two cars trying to pass one another, and closeups of driver looking as if they are experiencing psychosis.

As "Days of Thunder" sees it, the principal strategy in stock-car racing consists of trying to sideswipe your opponent and push him into the wall, and Cruise's car scrapes the wall for easily half of the time it is on the track. However most of this racing footage is loud and fast enough to be exciting.

The off-track sequences are served by Robert Duvall's usual laconic, sensitive performance, Randy Quaid as a used-car dealer who has faith in the kid, and Michael Rooker as the perfect Proto-Enemy (he can look hateful and then turn it around with a smile). Nicole Kidman has little to do as the physician, and doesn't make much of an impression. And Tom Cruise is so efficiently packaged in this product that he plays the same role as a saint in a Mexican village's holy day procession. It's not what he does that makes him so special, it's the way he manifests everybody's faith in him.

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US SPORTS ROUND UP

SPORTS FROM THE PRESSBOX

By Lee Lerner

Buster Douglas is heavyweight champion of the world. But how long will he hold boxing's most coveted belt?

"I don't see myself having a long reign, only because I don't want one," Douglas recently told a gathering of the press.

Douglas seems confident that he controls his own destiny. Others, however, are less sure.

Conceivably, the end to his ride could come as soon as Sept. 21 in Las Vegas. That's when Douglas is scheduled to make his first defense. He fights top contender Evander Holyfield in a big-money bout.

Douglas' period as champ has been unusual. Since he shocked the world by beating Mike Tyson Feb. 11 in Tokyo, he's dropped nearly out of sight and out of most minds.

Unlike most champions, Douglas has not boasted. He has not made pompous claims about being the best fighter in the universe. But most importantly, Douglas has not fought — not anyone.

This seems a little fishy. That's because most fighters, if lucky enough to win a title, will first fatten their bank accounts by taking a couple of "cake" bouts against any of the top contenders out of palookaville.

You know, the same guys George Foreman has been beating up on.

But Douglas hasn't gone that route. He's shunned the little fish and easy money and decided to dive right in after the shark, in this case Holyfield.

This strategy is keeping Douglas safe for his big payday this fall, yet it is also casting doubts over his ability and desire to remain as champ.

SPORTS LINE

By Dale Dunlap

Jesse Barfield swings hard and connects. The ball is back in the deep recesses of Yankee Stadium, in left center. The

center fielder goes back to the wall, seemingly to watch it leave the field.

But suddenly, as if it was in some other time frame, the speedy outfielder leaps and digs his spikes in the vinyl wall padding. The glove extends over the wall and the ball drops in it as if it was magnetized.

The hometown Yankees' crowd is stunned, then erupts in thunderous applause to the center fielder with gossamer cleats.

The Seattle Mariners' Ken Griffey Jr. arrived in the majors with that catch this season. Sure, he did have a creditable season in 1989 at age 19. But his path to the Rookie of the Year Award took a detour and the runner stumbled. It was costly.

Griffey slipped in a shower stall and injured his wrist. Maybe the gossamer cleats got in the way. No matter, he still hit .264 with 16 home runs and 61 runs batted in and left us wondering what would have been had he been healthy all season.

But this year he has established himself as one of the best players in baseball at such a very tender age. At 6-foot-3 and 195 pounds, Griffey has fluid grace in center that already has put him in the company of Gary Pettis, Devon White and Kirby Puckett as a fielder. The left-hander also has a rocket arm.

But his bat speaks volumes also. He was hitting a robust .326 on June 23 with 12 home runs and 36 RBI. The stroke is short, swift and sure. Yet he vexes teammates at times. "Hey, what did that guy throw you?" they would ask Griffey after he wallowed a home run. The youngster would grin and say, "I don't know. They throw 'em and I hit it."

WHICH FRUIT, ACCORDING TO MIDDLE EASTERN LEGEND, IS THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT?



WHILE RAISING MONEY TO LAUNCH "PLAYBOY," HUGH HEFNER WORKED AS CIRCULATION MANAGER FOR WHAT MAGAZINE?

THERE ARE 6 WORKING LANGUAGES USED AT THE UNITED NATIONS. NAME THEM!

ANS: BANANA • "CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES" • RUSSIAN-SPANISH • CHINESE-ENGLISH-FRENCH

ROCK TRACKS

By Joel Zarrow

Rastafarian legend Bob Marley, THE giant figure in the evolution of reggae, will be immortalized on celluloid when his life — and death — are brought to the big screen. New York-based Vanguard Films has obtained the movie rights to Timothy White's Bob Marley biography, "Catch A Fire: The Life of Bob Marley," and plans to begin shooting in 1991. Casting has yet to be done, but Virgin recording artist Ziggy Marley — Bob's son — is expected to appear in the film either as himself or some other unspecified role. It is clear, however, that Ziggy will not play his father.

The sisters are finally getting their act together — again. Dionne Warwick, Gladys Knight and Patti LaBelle are reuniting for another "Sisters in the Name of Love" tour next Valentine's Day. The trio first teamed in 1986 for an HBO special that absolutely brought down the house. It seemed as though each performer tried to outdo the others, which set the stage for three out-of-this-world performances. Before they head out, Dionne says the plan "is to do a performance in Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 28 to film another TV special." Until then, Warwick says she'll keep busy with her charity work, especially with AIDS groups.

Record guru Quincy Jones, who's seen mega-success with productions such as Michael Jackson's "Thriller" LP and the 1986 "We Are the World" sensation, has just landed the deal of a lifetime. Time Warner Inc. forked up \$25 million to get Jones started with his own production company, appropriately called Quincy Jones Entertainment Co. The deal gives Jones total authority to develop projects in such diverse areas as film, TV, music and broadcasting. Jones has been saying, "You've got a situation here where you can do anything you want." His company is not involved with the "Places You Find Love" feature about Jones' life that's slated for a fall release by Warner Bros.

Fingerprinting goes high tech

Problem: Too many fingerprints in FBI and state files to search using old manual method.

Solution: Computer system can scan a fingerprint and search hundreds of millions of filed prints in minutes, looking for a match



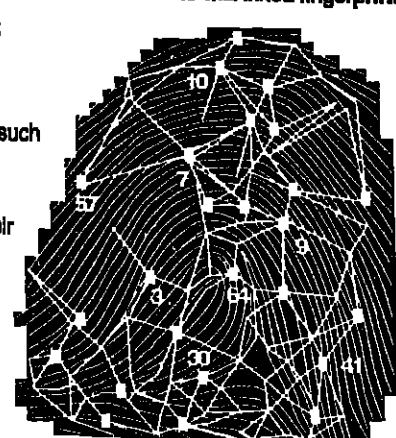
Normal inked fingerprint

How computer reads fingerprints

Each fingerprint contains dozens of tiny irregularities (such as ridges that end or fork)

Scanner finds the irregularities and records their position and angle

Positions and angles are encoded as binary numbers; computer can compare millions of binary numbers rapidly



Computerized fingerprint

SOURCE: Dept. of Justice

MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backward. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

COLONIAL LIFE (Sol.: 12 letters)

A-Apprentice; C-Church, Coast, Colonists, Colony, Corn, Crier, Crops; E-Export; F-Farmer, Fight, Flag, Freedom; H-Hunt; I-Indian; L-Land, Law; M-Market, Mayflower, Mercantile, Migrate; O-Owner; P-Pilgrim, Pillory, Plow, Plymouth, Port, Proprietary; R-Royal; S-School, Settle, Society, Stocks; T-Tobacco, Tools, Town, Trade; W-War, Wheat

This Week's Answer: INDEPENDENCE

REWOLFYAMCROPS
REIRCAFREEEDOMNL
TOOLSPILGRIMTDY
PLOWCPILLORYOYM
DNALHRSKCOTSWRO
HUNTUESSETTLENAU
LAYORNADCORNTT
TSAOCTETERAWREH
OONWHIERICNEYIE
BCANSCHOOLMDNRT
AIEPEXPORTAOPA
CEDRTEKRAMERLOR
CTNTHGIFLAGTORG
OYI COLONISTSCPI
WALMSILITNACREB

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Look Who's Talking, John Travolta, Kirstie Alley, RCA/Columbia Home Video (PG-13-1989)
2. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, Chevy Chase, Warner Home Video (PG-13-1989)
3. Back to the Future Part II, Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, MCA/Universal Home Video (PG-1989)
4. Black Rain, Michael Douglas, Andy Garcia, Paramount Home Video (R-1989)
5. The Little Mermaid, Animated, Walt Disney Home Video (G-1989)
6. The Fabulous Baker Boys, Jeff Bridges, Beau Bridges, IVE (R-1989)
7. Harlem Nights, Eddie Murphy, Richard Pryor, Paramount Home Video (R-1989)
8. Sea of Love, Al Pacino, Ellen Barkin, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1989)
9. Dead Poets Society, Robin Williams, Touchstone Home Video (PG-1989)
10. The Abyss, Ed Harris, Mary McCormack, CBS-Fox Video (PG-13-1989)

TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

1. Killin' Time, Clint Black, RCA
2. Livin' It Up, George Strait, MCA
3. No Holdin' Back, Randy Travis, Warner Bros.
4. Country Club, Travis Tritt, Warner Bros.
5. RVS III, Ricky Van Shelton, Columbia
6. Pickin' On Nashville, The Kentucky Headhunters, Mercury
7. Pass It On Down, Alabama, RCA
8. Here in the Real World, Alan Jackson, Arista
9. Willow in the Wind, Kathy Mattea, Mercury
10. Lone Wolf, Hank Williams Jr., Warner Bros.

TOP POP ALBUMS

1. I'm Breathless, Aladdin, Warner Bros.
2. Pretty Woman, Soundtrack, EMI
3. Poison, Bell Biv DeVoe, MCA
4. I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got, Sinead O'Connor, Ensign
5. Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em, M.C. Hammer, Capitol
6. Brigade, Heart, Capitol
7. Wilson Phillips, Wilson Phillips, SBK
8. Shut Up and Dance, Paula Abdul, Virgin
9. Soul Provider, Michael Bolton, Columbia

Crossword Puzzle

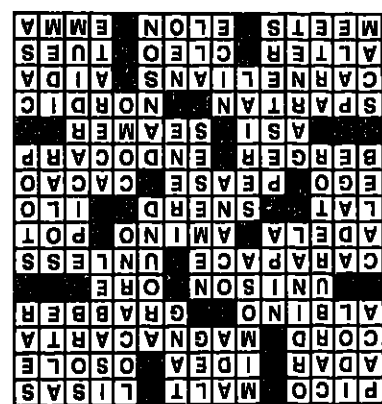
ACROSS

1. Rivera, suburb of L.A.
6. Ale ingredient
9. Actresses
10. See 61 Across
41. Porridge
42. Tropical tree
43. Actress Santa
46. Pit surrounding a plum seed
48. Was saying...
49. Welder, e.g.
50. Highly disciplined
54. Scandinavian
57. Red varieties of quarts
60. Radames's beloved
61. With 40 Across, a second self
62. Singer Laine
63. Calendar abbr.
64. Convenes
65. N.C. college
66. Austen novel: 1816

DOWN

1. S.A. rodent
2. Adored one
3. Auto part
4. Kind of number
5. Tree or cocktail
6. Okla. city
7. Part of a journey
8. Zip
9. Site of a 1925 peace conference
10. Juan Peron's successor 1974
11. Kind of apple
12. Der (Adenauer)
13. Gunlock part
19. On all sides
21. Asiatic palm
24. City in N. Colombia
25. Waterloo
27. Israeli leader. Deut. 1:36
28. Saying
30. Part of a sac surrounding the heart
31. Of the sun
32. Condescend
35. Actress Papas
36. "Dynasty," for one
41. Annoys
42. Lake or singer
43. Needle-shaped
45. Jan. birthstone
47. Actor in "Cheers" game
50. Confidence
51. Ashen
52. Commedia dell'arte
53. Pleasant French city?
55. Footnote abbr.
56. House, in Spain
58. Everything
59. Modernist

Solution



Jordan Bridge

By Ghassan Ghanem

Do you have a heart stopper?

CUE BIDDING is an area of uncertainty for most of bridge players.

The easiest way to digest it is by dividing the cue bid into three main categories:

* Partner has not bid and you make a direct cue bid. This is a Michael cue bid showing a two-similar hand.

R.H.O. You (R.H.O.: Right hand opponent)

- 1♦ 2♦ Both majors
- 1♥ 2♥ Both majors
- 1♠ 2♠ Spade and a minor
- 1♣ 2♣ Heart and a minor

But this is not our subject this week

* You agree to the trump suit with partner and cue bid above the level of 3 N. Now you are bidding your controls, and this was the subject of one of my previous articles.

* Partner opens, any of the opponents intervenes and you cue bid the opponents' suit below the level of 3 N.

The cue bidding in the last situation is an investigational cue bid and it is an asking bid in principle. It is a notrump probe asking partner to bid notrump if he holds a notrump stopper in the opponent's suit, or otherwise bid naturally.

Moreover, if partner holds a stopper and has the choice to bid notrump at the two or three level, he bids 3N with 15 or more points and bids 2N only with less points.

More illustrations:

Partner R.H.O. You L.H.O.

1♦ 1♥ 2♥* pass

2♦ = Second spade suit, no heart stopper
2N = Heart stopper, 12 to bid 14 points

3♦ = Second club suit, no heart stopper.

3♥ = Slam interest

3♠ = Second spade suit, reverse values

3N = Heart stopper, 15-17 points

* Do you have a heart stopper for notrumps.

When you ask, you do not promise a stopper, but sometimes you may hold one.

In the previous illustration, your hand could be:

♠KJ3 ♥Q72 ♦KJ2 ♣AQ65

With more than enough points but you want to make sure of another heart stopper. Or it may be:

♠Q93 ♥92 ♦72 ♣AKQ1054

And all what you need to bid 3N is a heart stopper in partner's hand.

Here is a hand I bid with my partner in the second open pairs session of 1988 in Nicosia Festival, with more to come next week.

♠K96 ♥K8 ♦AQ10932 ♣Q3

♠AQ1083 ♥54 ♦77 ♣7654

♠75 ♥AQ1096 ♦85 ♣K982

♠J42 ♥7732 ♦K64 ♣AJ10

(North) (East) (South) (West)

1♦ 1♥ Pass Pass (1)

2♦ Pass Pass 2♦ (2)

3♦ Pass Pass 3♦ (4)

3N (5) Pass Pass Pass

(1) Forcing in this situation, no other alternative.

(2) Do you have a spade stopper? (3) Yes.

(3) Do you have a heart stopper? (5) Yes.

JEANE DIXON'S

Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March-10 April): Tread carefully around sensitive business associates and avoid taking any unnecessary risks with your investments. Action is the key to power today. Others will welcome your constructive suggestions. Seek the support of influential people to launch a pet project. Heed the advice of financial experts. A romantic relationship intensifies. Devoted couples talk about setting a wedding date!

TAURUS (20 April-20 May): Put your creativity to work immediately! You welcome an overture from a member of the opposite sex. Read any fine print carefully. Stop making excuses for someone who knows better. Check the collateral very carefully if you are asked to make a loan. Travel to foreign shores can be highly lucrative. Take a minor setback in stride and you will win new admiration.

GEMINI (21 May-20 June): Events occurring today could increase your family responsibilities. Be flexible. Comparison shopping is fine as long as you don't waste time driving around. Romance sizzles! Dare to be different from the rest. By making intelligent concessions, you could finalize highly lucrative deal. Be prepared to deal with a loved one's whimsical mood!

CANCER (21 June-22 July): Use an indirect approach to deal with a touchy matter. Unexpected support from a former foe delights you. However, friends may not keep their promises. Your restless nature works to your advantage. Nurturing special relationship could be the key to greater business or financial success. Be extra cautious when dealing with those who might try to deceive you. Get all promises in writing.

LEO (23 July-22 August): Sweeping changes occur in your domestic situation and will have a great bearing on your future. A positive attitude helps you accomplish wonders. Encourage children to fulfill their dreams. Align yourself with those who have extensive resources. Take a major career step with confidence. An influential member of the opposite sex will be impressed. Request more than you need.

VIRGO (23 Aug. - 22 Sept.): Curb a tendency to strike out at others while asserting yourself. A diplomatic approach will serve you well. Practice small economies. Look for an off-beat way to relax and have fun this evening. Your mental and manual dexterity help you keep many different projects going today. You tackle a variety of things with utmost success! Avoid rushing into a romantic commitment.

LIBRA (23 Sept-22 Oct.): Be willing to do some "wheeling and dealing" to advance your cause. Agreements you make today will bring pleasure as well as greater financial security. Seek the limelight this week. A realistic appraisal is important when asking favours from influential people. Tempers run high now. Avoid emotional outbursts. Be sure to share your plans with your loved ones.

SCORPIO (23 Oct. - 21 Nov): Listen carefully to the advice of your mate or partner. New creative projects hold promise. Perfect your skills and acquire specialized knowledge. Take the initiative in a romantic relationship. Curb a tendency to be self-satisfied. Be slower to pass judgment on other, and they will judge you more kindly. Do not count on all of your plans being put into action.

SAGITTARIUS (22 Nov.-21 Dec): Show your appreciation when someone proves his loyalty. Enjoy what you have without being envious of others. A cash windfall could come at just the right moment. Count your blessings! You can find unusual success in business today. Get to the bottom of what is bothering your mate or partner. A compromise could restore domestic bliss. Romance moves into high gear this week.

CAPRICORN (22 Dec.-19 Jan.): Listen to all sides of an argument. Your positive attitude wins you new friends. Keep in touch with overseas business contacts. Domestic affairs require careful handling. Business affairs will move ahead nicely. New projects are favoured. Now is a good time to complete joint financial arrangements. You may have to break with tradition.

AQUARIUS (20 Jan.-18 Feb.): Deal with people at a distance. Work harder to separate business from pleasure, replacing bad habits with good ones. An exciting new romance will help you forget an old love. Look ahead. A financial question may disturb you. Rash moves will only increase tension. An hour of quiet meditation could bring some answers. Do not neglect your domestic duties. Spend time with mate.

PISCES (19 Feb.-20 March): A give-and-take attitude will help you settle an argument. Friends could prove better company than family members. You hear from someone from your past. The news is good! Rise above petty family arguments. The passage of time will heal recent wounds. A visit to a bank may answer your money questions. Credit counseling will be helpful. Stop running up bills.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN excel in language and reading but may get only fair grades in science. Wise parents will encourage these youngsters to work harder at things that do not come easily. These children pride themselves on being fair and do not seem to realize that they often play favourites. They have a deep love of family and are quick to spot phonies. Energetic and competitive, these children love sports.

Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Arab Republic of Yemen	642381
Australian	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	674750
Bahrain	664148
Belgian	675683
Canadian	666124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	642653
Czechoslovakian	665105
Danish Consulate Gen.	622324
Finnish Consulate	623443
French	641273/4
German	689351
German D.R.	819351/2
Greek	672331
Hungarian	674916
Indian	637262
Iranian	639331
Italian	638185
Consulate Gen. Ireland	630878
Japanese	672486/7
Yugoslavian	665107
Kuwaiti	675135/8
Libyan	666118
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
Netherlands	637967/625165
Indonesian	828911
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Consulate	637164
Pakistani	622787
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	67153
Qatar	644331/2
Romanian	667738
Saudi Arabian	814154
South Korean	660745/6
Spanish	622140
Sudanese	644251/2
Swedish	669177/9
Swiss	686416/7
Syrian	641076
Tunisian	674307/8
Turkish	641251
United Arab Emirates	644369
United Kingdom	823100
United States of America	644371
USSR	641158
Delegation of the EEC	668191
UNEP	668171/2
UNRWA	669194/8
Far East Com. off. (Taiwan)	671530
UNICEF	629571
Conf. of Sri Lanka	645312

Airlines

Arab Air Cargo	674191/95
Aeroflot	641510
Air France	666055/667824
Air India	675888/9
Air Lanka	655377/651799
Alitalia	625203
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Austrian Airlines	637380/667028
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Airways	641430
China Airlines	637380
Cathay Pacific	624363
Cyprus Airways	667028
Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	662141/678321
Gulf Air	653606/656616
Hungarian Airlines	639295
Iberia	637827/644036
Iraqi Airways	628596/628598
Japan Air Lines	630879
K.L.M.	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662216
Kuwait Airlines	630144
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airlines	639575/653446
M.E.A.	636104
Olympic	630125/638433
PIA	625981
Philippine Airlines	670155
Pulish Airlines	625981
Qantas	641430/655447
Royal Jordanian	678321
Sabena Belgian Airlines	675888
Saudia	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	604649
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sudan Airlines	662111
Swire Air (G.S.A.)	642943
Swire Air	629831
Syrian Air	622147
TARCOM - Romanian	637380
Thai Airways	604649
Trans World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628175
Yugoslav Airlines	604911

Queen Alia Airport (08)53200

Diary

Cultural centres	
Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7
American Centre Library	641520
British Council	636147/8
French Cultural Centre	637009
Goethe Institute	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	624049
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Hussein Youth City	667181/5
Y.W.C.A.	641793
Y.W.M.A.	664251
Amman Mun. Library	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library	834555

Cinemas	
Concord	677420
Rainbow	625155
Opera	675573
Plaza	674111
Philadelphia	634144
Nijom	675571

Sports Clubs	
Al Hussein Sports City	667181
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	673713

Emergencies	
Amman governorate	91228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbit	271292
Civil Defence Dept.	661111
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman fire brigade	630341
First aid	775121
Blood Bank	630341
Civil Defence rescue	621111, 637777
Police rescue	639141
Police headquarters	896390
Traffic police	636381/4
Electric Power Co.	897467
Water complaints	(08) 53200
Queen Alia Airport	(08) 53200
RJ Flight Info.	(08)53200

Hospitals	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813
Khaled Maternity	642441/2
Akheh Maternity	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/5
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian-Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	773111/28
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

General	
Jordan Television	77311/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	605800
Price complaints	661176
Telephone Information	121
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Repair service	623101

Amman	
Crown	798181
Philadelphia	663100
Marriott	660100
Regency	665094
Jerusalem	641361
Intercontinental	665186
Commodore	665181
Middle East	667150
Grand Palace	661121
Tyche	661114
International	841712
San Rock	813801
Alia Gateway	(08) 51000
Amra	815071
Plaza	674111

Aqaba	
Holiday Int'l	312426
Miramir	314340
Al-Cazar	314131
Coral Beach	313521
Aquamarina I.	316250
Aquamarina II.	315165
Aqaba	314091

Aqaba	
Holiday Int'l	312426
Miramir	314340
Al-Cazar	314131
Coral Beach	313521
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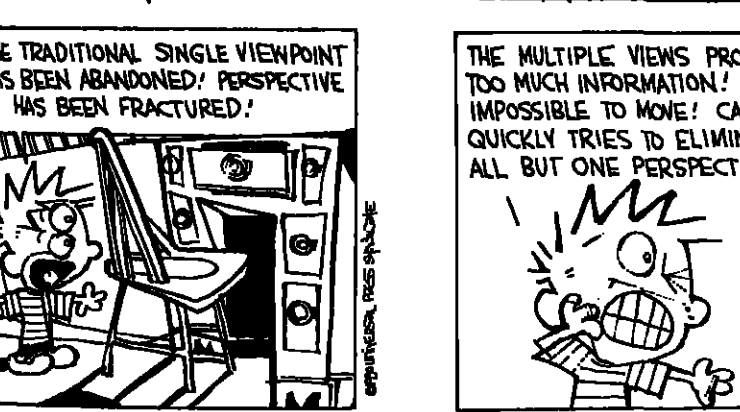
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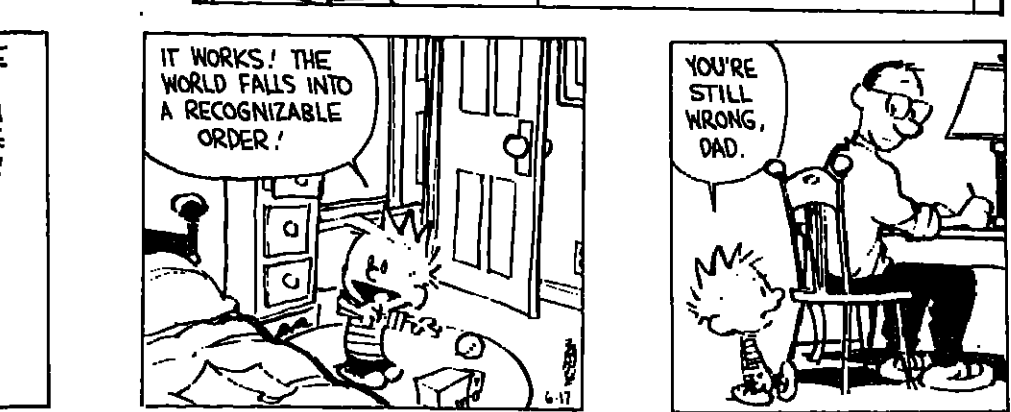
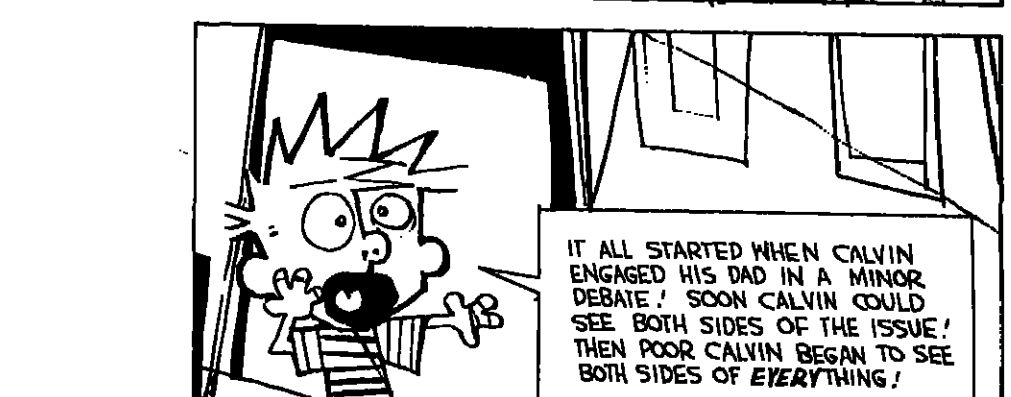
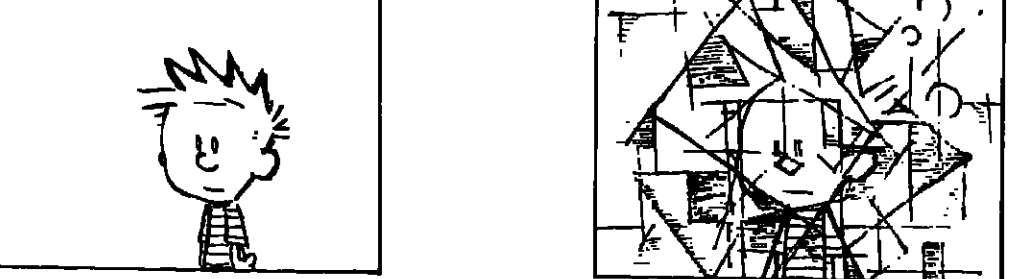
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COMICS

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Philadelphia at 1:00 p.m.
 leaving at 65 miles per hour
 Train leaves Denver
 4:00... Say, you need
 some paper?

So where's my
 dinner? One of the
 Great Masters videos

net I got the green beans. I got
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